final report in 120 days, and any actions Trump takes as a result are likely to face legal challenges, especially if he tries to revoke previous designations.

Back

Zinke starts offshore leasing program review Back

By Esther Whieldon | 05/01/2017 03:52 PM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed a secretarial order today directing BOEM to start a review of the agency's five-year plan for offering oil and gas leases in federally controlled waters.

The move follows President Donald Trump's Friday executive order directing the agency to launch the review of the leasing plan set in place by the Obama administration.

"We're going to look at everything," Zinke said before signing the order at a Consumer Energy Alliance event in Houston, which was streamed on Facebook.

WHAT'S NEXT: Zinke told reporters last week the review of the offshore plan could take two years to complete.

Back

Zinke taps political ally to coordinate Interior energy work Back

By Esther Whieldon | 05/01/2017 04:49 PM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke today named the treasurer of his former congressional leadership PAC to a newly created position coordinating the agency's energy policies across its nine bureaus.

Vincent DeVito, a Boston-based energy lawyer, will be counselor to the secretary for energy policy, where he will be responsible for ensuring all the agencies are on the same page, Zinke said at a Consumer Energy Alliance event in Houston, which was streamed on Facebook.

Between the Fish and Wildlife Service, BOEM, BSEE, BLM "and all the different departments I have, it's confusing for me," Zinke said.

"So I just need a single point of contact. ... We have to look at ourselves through to make sure we're streamlined and our regulations aren't arbitrary," he said.

When Zinke was a member of the House, DeVito, a partner at Bowditch & Dewey, was listed as treasurer for Zinke's leadership PAC, the Supporting Electing American Leaders or SEAL PAC.

DeVito has worked on a number of energy issues, including on pipelines. He represented conservation land trusts in opposing Northeast Energy Direct — a project Kinder Morgan

withdrew its federal application in May 2016.

DeVito also worked in the George W. Bush administration as Department of Energy's general counsel's office and as DOE's U.S. Assistant Secretary of Energy for Policy and International Affairs.

WHAT'S NEXT: DeVito does not require Senate confirmation for his newly created position, and Zinke did not provide any indication of when President Donald Trump would nominate more senior leaders at Interior.

Back

DOE beachhead member lands senior EERE post Back

By Darius Dixon | 05/01/2017 05:30 PM EDT

The Institute for Energy Research's Daniel Simmons will take up a leading post at the Department of Energy as the acting assistant secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the agency said in an email to staff today.

DOE said Simmons, a former vice president for policy at the libertarian-leaning IER, would take the role of principal deputy assistant secretary for the office effective today. However, without an EERE assistant secretary who has been nominated and confirmed by the Senate, Simmons can only hold the position on a temporary basis.

DOE confirmed Simmons' appointment.

Simmons was a member of President Donald Trump's transition and beachhead teams at DOE. Before joining IER, he directed the Natural Resources Task Force at the American Legislative Exchange Council.

Steven Chalk, who had served in the position for the past few months, will now return to his role as the deputy assistant secretary for operations, according to the email.

Back

Pruitt won't attend Oklahoma GOP fundraiser Back

By Annie Snider | 04/27/2017 09:59 AM EDT

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will not attend a May 5 Oklahoma GOP fundraiser because of a flier touting his appearance, he said this morning.

"We're not going to be able to attend because of the invitation that was sent out," Pruitt told Fox News Radio host Brian Kilmeade.

Pruitt noted that his attendance had been approved in advance by EPA's ethics office, but it was the flier, which used his title and promoted remarks he would make about his EPA job, that "prevented my attendance."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) this week alleged that Pruitt's appearance would violate the Hatch Act, the law limiting political activities by presidential appointees and other government officials, and asked the U.S. Office of Special Counsel to investigate.

In the radio interview, Pruitt was asked whether he will urge Trump to exit the Paris climate change agreement. "Without a doubt, yes," he responded.

"It's just a bad business deal, it's something we need to exit. We need to stay at the table, we need to show the leadership to the rest of the world as we already are, but Paris is ... an America last strategy as opposed to an America first strategy," he said.

After an uproar over previous comments about the role carbon emissions play in climate change, Pruitt today acknowledged that "climate change is occurring and human activity contributes to that, carbon contributes to that." But, he said, "we can't measure with precision the amount of human activity, what it contributes to that climate change."

Back

Let kids' climate suit go to trial, judge recommends Back

By Alex Guillén | 05/01/2017 04:21 PM EDT

A federal magistrate judge today said that a group of children seeking to force the federal government to take drastic action on climate change should be allowed to make their case in court.

The Trump administration, backed up by the oil and manufacturing industries, in March asked a judge in the U.S. District Court in Oregon to let them leapfrog her and ask the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to toss out the case before it goes to trial.

In a 16-page recommendation today, Thomas Coffin, a magistrate judge assisting with the case, recommended that District Court Judge Ann Aiken reject the administration's request. Aiken concluded last year that there were enough questions to merit a trial.

Many of the legal questions are inextricably tied to scientific questions about climate change's causes and risks, as well as the government's past and current efforts to curb greenhouse gases or encourage fossil fuel development, Coffin wrote. A trial would allow the Trump administration and industry groups to present any evidence against climate change and its risks in a public forum, he added.

The children behind the lawsuit argue that the government has violated a public trust doctrine by knowing of climate change for decades but not doing enough to combat the threat. The Obama

and Trump administrations have rejected that argument.

The Trump administration could still ask the 9th Circuit to get involved, but officials would have a much harder time if Aiken agrees with Coffin.

WHAT'S NEXT: Judge Aiken must decide whether to agree with Coffin's assessment or give her blessing to the Trump administration's early appeal effort.

Back

Pruitt says EPA working on plans to approve states' coal ash programs Back

By Alex Guillén | 05/01/2017 05:17 PM EDT

EPA is working on its procedures for reviewing and approving states' coal ash permitting programs, Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a Friday letter.

A water infrastructure package that was signed into law in December included a bipartisan compromise on coal ash regulation that came in response to EPA's 2014 regulation on coal ash, a toxic byproduct of burning coal for electricity. The compromise shifted permitting responsibilities to the states, which must first get EPA approval of their programs' broad contours, while EPA gained more enforcement powers and other concessions.

EPA is currently working on the needed guidance for states to seek such approval, Pruitt wrote in a letter to Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval.

"EPA has started developing guidance for states about how EPA expects to review and approve state applications to operate permit programs and allow flexibility in individual permits in lieu of the national standards," Pruitt wrote.

The topic was discussed at a recent gathering of state environmental officials, and the agency plans to go into technical detail with the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials, Pruitt added.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA will develop draft guidance and may seek public input before issuing final guidance on how it will review state submissions.

Back

Bipartisan coal ash provision included in final WRDA Back

By Alex Guillén | 12/05/2016 04:28 PM EDT

The final version of the Water Resources Development Act released today by House and Senate negotiators includes a tweaked version of language passed earlier this year by the Senate that would change the permitting and enforcement regime for EPA's coal ash rule.

The language will require states to get EPA approval for their coal ash disposal permitting plans, and the agency will also gain more enforcement powers, on top of potential citizen lawsuits.

"This new permitting authority fixes the main problems with the recent coal ash regulation issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, by removing citizen suits as the sole means of enforcement and allowing states to tailor permit requirements on a case-by-case basis," Sens. Jim Inhofe, Joe Manchin, Shelley Moore Capito and John Hoeven said in a joint statement.

The provision won bipartisan backing, although various environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, Environmental Integrity Project and the Waterkeeper Alliance, raised issues with the language.

The new language would also extend EPA's timeline to review authorized state programs from every five years to every 12 years. And it gives EPA more time to review state programs, includes language allowing states to ask EPA to review a neighboring state's program, and requires EPA to operate a backstop permit program for states without authorized programs.

The bill is expected to hit the House floor this week.

Back

Conservatives demanding details on federal workers' encryption use Back

By Andrew Restuccia | 02/14/2017 03:00 PM EDT

Republicans in Congress and their conservative allies are demanding details about federal workers' use of encrypted messaging apps, part of a broader counterattack on employees suspected of opposing President Donald Trump's agenda.

Congressional Republicans are also pondering changes to longstanding laws that protect government workers, further stoking fears among some federal employees that the new administration's supporters are out to squash dissent.

Republicans on the House Science Committee took up the cause on Tuesday by asking EPA's inspector general to review reports that agency employees are using an app called Signal, which allows people to exchange encrypted text messages and phone calls. POLITICO reported this month that a group of fewer than a dozen EPA employees were using the app to discuss what they would do if Trump's political appointees flout the law or delete valuable scientific data.

The anti-Trump resistance has infuriated Republicans, who fear that dissenters in the government could undercut the president's policy proposals by unleashing even more embarrassing leaks. They also contend that the use of encrypted messaging circumvents federal record-keeping laws — an argument Science Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) echoed in Tuesday's letter.

"[T]he Committee is concerned that these encrypted and off-the-record communication practices,

if true, run afoul of federal record-keeping requirements, leaving information that could be responsive to future Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and congressional requests unattainable," wrote Smith, who organized the letter to the IG. The panel has jurisdiction over many cybersecurity issues.

Outside conservative groups have launched similar efforts.

Citing POLITICO's story, the Cause of Action Institute, a right-leaning watchdog group, filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act this month seeking EPA employees' communications using Signal. "The bottom line is: An encrypted app is basically a way to avoid transparency," Institute Assistant Vice President Henry Kerner said in an interview.

It's not just encryption that is raising eyebrows. Republican research firm America Rising filed a FOIA request this month seeking all emails sent by John O'Grady, a top union official at the EPA, that "mentions or refers to President Trump."

The FOIA request came in response to O'Grady's comments to The Washington Post that Trump's decision to firing then-acting Attorney General Sally Yates "sends kind of a chilling effect" through agencies. O'Grady did not respond to a request for comment.

"The public is entitled to know whether career federal government employees are engaged in partisan politics on the taxpayers' dime," said Allan Blutstein, vice president of FOIA operations at America Rising.

EPA employees said they are not using Signal for official government business, and they raised concerns that they're being targeted because they are critical of Trump.

"I don't think anybody can dictate which apps we use on our personal time, for personal conversations," one EPA employee told POLITICO.

The debate comes as employees across the government — political appointees and career officials alike — are increasingly relying on encrypted messaging apps, fearing repercussions if their private conversations are made public.

National security officials have long used encrypted mobile phone software like Signal and WhatsApp to communicate with reporters and other staffers. Signal frequently comes up in articles advising people how they can communicate free of snooping from government officials or hackers, especially following the massive leaks of stolen Democratic Party emails that roiled last year's presidential election.

Trump's appointees have gotten into the act, too: The Washington Post reported this week that administration staff members are using an app called Confide, which deletes messages once they are read, because they're afraid of being accused of leaking to the press. That's also a threat to transparency and accountability, argued Tom Fitton, president of the conservative activist group Judicial Watch, in an interview with POLITICO on Tuesday.

"If they're conducting government business via an application that destroys records, that's a problem that needs to stop," said Fitton, adding that the administration needs to either train its staff on the issue or send them a reminder. He added that the Trump administration is "asking for a lawsuit from either Judicial Watch or someone else if they don't get their act together on these records policies."

Asked if the House Science Committee will pursue a similar probe of White House staffers' use of encrypted messaging apps, spokeswoman Kristina Baum declined to make any commitments. But she said the panel "intends to continue to monitor" cyber issues.

The growing tension across the government has some career employees worried that Republicans will try to make radical changes to laws protecting federal workers — a move that could make people more fearful to speak out against Trump. Trump has already imposed a freeze on most federal hires and has promised to reduce the size of the workforce.

"Frankly, the climate has shifted rather dramatically and we've gone from a chief executive who respects civil servants to a rather bombastic, disdainful chief executive who unfortunately empowers their disparagement," Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) said in an interview.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Oversight Committee, is eyeing a major overhaul of the civil service system. He has discussed phasing out pensions for new government employees, instead relying on a defined-contribution plan like a 401(k), and has advocated making it easier to fire problem workers. Chaffetz reportedly talked about some of these issues during a recent meeting with Trump.

Connolly said he's concerned that the Republican Congress could win enough support to move a bill gutting civil service protections. "It is very alarming and I think frankly very destructive in terms of the fabric of a free government and a free society," he said.

In the Senate, lawmakers are also considering changes to civil service laws, but Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) said he is eyeing targeted tweaks that can win bipartisan support, such as efforts to improve the hiring process.

"If we can keep it small and we can keep it targeted, I think we can move it through unanimous consent," said Lankford, who chairs the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee's panel on regulatory affairs and federal management. "We need to be better at hiring. If we're better at hiring we don't have to worry about firing."

Alex Guillén and Eric Geller contributed to this story.

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Mon 5/1/2017 6:09:07 PM
Subject: Spending bill classifies biomass power as carbon neutral

By Esther Whieldon

05/01/2017 01:55 PM EDT

A fiscal 2017 spending **deal** **released by congressional leaders today contains language that would classify electricity generated using biomass as carbon neutral.**

The appropriations bill appears to borrow language from a broader energy bill that lawmakers failed to pass last year that would encourage the departments of Agriculture and Energy and the EPA to create policies that identify forest biomass energy as renewable and carbon neutral provided that it "does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use." Lawmakers have attempted to include language on biomass in prior appropriations bills.

The biomass industry contends it can help the electricity sector reduce overall carbon levels, but some green groups argue that biomass in some cases emits more carbon at the smokestack than coal-fired generation and that planting new trees cannot offset those emissions entirely.

The EPA has not yet defined how it will assess emissions from biomass projects under a proceeding it started in 2011.

WHAT'S NEXT: The House and Senate are likely to act quickly this week on the measure.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/05/spending-bill-classifies-biomass-power-as-carbon-neutral-087050

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From: POLITICO Pro
Sent: Fri 4/28/2017 9:30:08 PM
Subject: Sources: EPA expected to leave ethanol volumes in place

By Eric Wolff

04/28/2017 05:16 PM EDT

Industry sources say EPA could send its 2018 proposed biofuel mandates under the Renewable Fuel Standard to the White House for review as soon as Monday, putting the rule on track to meet the November deadline.

Biofuel and refining industry sources in contact with EPA and the White House told POLITICO the proposal will keep the conventional biofuel volume requirement — typcially ethanol — at 15 billion gallons, the same level set by the Obama administration for 2017. EPA considers overall fuel consumption forecasts from the Energy Information Administration in its decision, and demand for gasoline is expected to surpass the record level seen last year.

The volume mandates set a decade ago for the RFS set the maximum level at 15 billion gallons.

One source said the volume mandates for advanced biodiesel and advanced cellulosic biofuel would increase slightly from 2017 levels, though other sources said the final numbers were still fluid.

EPA did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The sources cautioned that the timeline for submission to OMB could slip, and that OMB could, as happened under Obama, alter the numbers before the final rule is issued.

Sources also say the EPA's proposed volumes rule will not address the question of which companies should bear the burden of complying with the program.

WHAT'S NEXT: OMB will review the rule, possibly making adjustments. In order to remain on schedule to meet the November deadline, EPA must publish the proposal by early June.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/04/rfs-proposal-likely-to-leave-ethanol-volumes-in-place-087004

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Sent: Mon 6/12/2017 1:38:33 PM
Subject: United States Resets Climate Change Discussion At G7

United States Resets Climate Change Discussion At G7

U.S. Formally Joins Communiqué, Reaching Consensus On Important Environmental Issues

June 12, 2017

Bologna, Italy – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that the United States stands firm on its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and has reset the conversation about climate change reflective of the new priorities of the Trump Administration and the expectations of the American people.

"Respective of the importance to engage with longstanding allies and key international partners, we approached the climate discussions head on from a position of strength and clarity. We are resetting the dialogue to say Paris is not the only way forward to making progress. Today's action of reaching consensus makes clear that the Paris Agreement is not the only mechanism by which environmental stewardship can be demonstrated. It also demonstrates our commitment to honest conversations, which are the cornerstone of constructive international dialogue, " said Administrator Scott Pruitt.

While a party to the communiqué, the United States did not join the climate change sections, explicitly stating:

We the United States of America continue to demonstrate through action, having reduced our CO2 footprint as demonstrated by achieving pre-1994 CO2 levels domestically. The United States will continue to engage with key international partners in a manner that is consistent with our domestic priorities, preserving both a strong economy and a healthy environment. Accordingly, we the United States do not join those sections of the communiqué on climate and MDBs, reflecting our recent announcement to withdraw and immediately cease implementation of the Paris Agreement and associated financial commitment.

The United States and its G7 counterparts found common ground engaging in robust and constructive dialogue regarding other, equally important environmental issues. The United States joined consensus throughout the communiqué including the sections discussing resource efficiency, marine litter, and environmental policies and jobs.

"The United States will continue to show leadership by offering action-oriented solutions to the world's environmental challenges. We have indicated a willingness to engage on an international stage that stands to greatly benefit from American ingenuity, innovation, and advanced technologies. We have already demonstrated significant progress towards mitigating environmental problems and we will continue to develop these for the benefit of all

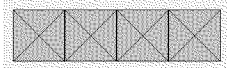
nations," Administrator Pruitt said.

BACKGROUND ...

G7 Bologna Environment Ministers' Meeting: Communiqué

"We, the G7 Environment Ministers and high representatives, and European Commissioners responsible for environment and climate, met in Bologna on 11-12 June 2017. We were joined by heads and senior officials of International Organizations and by representatives of universities and firms." (G7 Bologna Environment Ministers' Meeting, 06/12/17)

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To: Dravis, Samantha[dravis.samantha@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Mon 6/12/2017 12:56:11 PM
Subject: US rejects G-7 pledges on climate efforts and aid

By Sara Stefanini

06/12/2017 08:52 AM EDT

BOLOGNA, Italy — The U.S. refused today to sign up to a joint G-7 environment statement that said it was committed to reducing its carbon dioxide emissions or any section on climate change and multilateral development banks.

The communiqué adopted by G-7 environment ministers includes a footnote stating that the U.S. will continue to engage with "key international partners" in a way that is consistent with its domestic priorities — a "strong" economy and a "healthy" environment. But not much else.

"We the United States of America continue to demonstrate through action, having reduced our CO2 footprint as demonstrated by achieving pre-1994 CO2 levels domestically," the footnote said.

"We the United States do not join those sections of the communiqué on climate and [multilateral development banks], reflecting our recent announcement to withdraw and immediately cease implementation of the Paris agreement and associated financial commitments," the footnote continued.

The other six countries backed the Paris agreement's goals for limiting global warming and efforts to ramp up measures before 2020 and the need to shore up more bilateral and multilateral climate finance. They said they will continue to work with the U.S. but that they are plowing ahead with commitments made under the Paris agreement.

"The Paris agreement is the only framework in which the fight against climate change can take place, it is irreversible, there is no doubt about it," France's Environment and Energy Minister Nicolas Hulot told reporters today.

This article first appeared on POLITICO.EU on June 12, 2017.

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/us-rejects-g-7-pledges-on-climate-efforts-and-aid-088904

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy
Sent: Mon 6/12/2017 9:43:39 AM
Subject: Morning Energy: Pruitt briefly attends G-7 environment meeting — Final call on Bears Ears expected imminently — More cities join climate data transparency push

By Anthony Adragna | 06/12/2017 05:41 AM EDT

With help from Sara Stefanini and Anca Gurzu

CIAO! ARRIVEDERCI! EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will not appear alongside his counterparts from the rest of the G-7 today to close out the environmental ministers meeting in Bologna, Italy, because he left after the first few hours of the confab on Sunday. "As planned, Administrator Pruitt is returning home to attend the first full cabinet meeting at the White House," EPA spokesman Lincoln Ferguson told ME. "Senior staff will remain in Bologna and continue to engage in proactive discussions with our international partners." President Donald Trump is scheduled to convene his full Cabinet for the first time today.

Stark divisions remain — and aren't likely to bridged: The G-7 environment ministers meeting comes less than two weeks after Trump announced he would pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate agreement, a decision that has strained diplomatic relations. Ministers are still expected to issue a communiqué today, but the other nations have made clear their displeasure at the U.S. leaving the Paris pact. German Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks told reporters there will be one, but that it will "differentiate the opinions " (which sounds like what G-7 leaders did in their statement last month). Italian Environment Minister Gian Luca Galletti described the differences in perspectives on Paris between the U.S. and the other six nations as "distant."

All welcome to Paris: Patricia Espinosa, head of the United Nations climate change secretariat, told the ministers she intends to open the door for regions, cities and other sub-national players to join the international talks, said Carlo Carraro, a member of the U.N.'s International Panel on Climate Change Bureau. "This is obviously important, because cities like New York and states like California that intend to pursue the same direction — of reducing emissions very ambitiously — will have a voice and will be able to sign agreements inside the international convention on climate change."

So, what'd Pruitt do while in Italia? EPA has declined to provide information on Pruitt's schedule during his taxpayer-funded trip, but he tweeted about a series of meetings in Europe. They included ones with Japan's environment minister, Britain's Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs minister Therese Coffey, Galletti, more business representatives, judicial officials in Rome and Vatican representatives. Espinosa and Hendricks posted their own photos of meetings with Pruitt. Family portrait here.

"The United States has always been a world leader when it comes to environmental stewardship, and that was demonstrated on a global stage today," Pruitt said in a statement after he left. "I believe engaging in international discussion is of the utmost importance to the United States when it comes to environmental issues."

WELCOME TO MONDAY! I'm your host Anthony Adragna, and ClearPath Foundation's Spencer Nelson was first to identify Sen. Ron Wyden as the senator whose spouse co-owns the Strand Bookstore. For today: What state has gone the longest since its last Democratic senator? Send your tips, energy gossip and comments to aadragna@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @AnthonyAdragna, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

BEARS EARS ANNOUNCEMENT COMING: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation on the fate of 1.4 million-acre monument Bears Ears National Monument was due to the White House last weekend, and the Trump administration is expected to announce its decision shortly. Sen. Orrin Hatch, dean of the Utah congressional delegation, said in a weekend statement he was "prepared to support whatever recommendation Secretary Zinke offers to the president at the conclusion of a thorough review process." Zinke's recommendations could be to shrink or completely revoke the monument designation, moves sure to be staunchly opposed by green groups and Democrats in Congress, or he could press for lawmakers to craft a legislative solution.

ICYMI: Pro's Esther Whieldon scored an interview with former Interior chief Sally Jewell, who said the Obama administration opted to designate Bears Ears because "no credible effort was put forth by the Utah delegation to do it through congressional means in spite of repeated offers and efforts to help them do that." Republicans strongly dispute that contention, saying it was environmentalists who walked away from legislative negotiations.

CLIMATE HITS THE C SUITES: Pro's Ben Lefebvre examines growing momentum from activist investors calling on major energy companies to disclose how government efforts to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius would affect their businesses. Majority owners of three major energy companies — Exxon Mobil, Occidental Petroleum and Pennsylvania-based PPL Electric Utilities — backed resolutions along those lines this year and similar efforts came within percentage points of passage at Ameren, Dominion Energy, Duke Energy and DTE.

LATEST VOLLEY IN EXXON V. SCHNEIDERMAN: Exxon Mobil said in a Friday filing it was appropriate to use different carbon prices in calculations conducted for different purposes, including some taking global energy demand and prices into account and others calculating possible project investments, Pro's Ben Lefebvre reports . "ExxonMobil has not said that it relied on one set of figures for all purposes, and a reasonable investor would not draw such a conclusion from ExxonMobil's public statements," the fossil fuel giant's attorneys wrote. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has argued Exxon may have defrauded investors by keeping its in-house research on climate change hidden, though the company has refused to comply with all of the his subpoena requests and accused Schneiderman of using the litigation to further his career.

HITTING THE FAST LANE: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee plans to vote on the renomination of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki on June 15, separating her nomination from those of two other NRC picks, Pro's Darius Dixon reports. Lawmakers will hold a rescheduled nomination hearing for Svinicki, NRC nominees Annie Caputo and David Wright and EPA enforcement nominee Susan Bodine on Tuesday.

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY MEETING PUSHED: EPA will invite more industry participants to a meeting hosted by the agency's scientific integrity official after House Science Chairman Lamar Smith complained the guest list was too tilted toward environmentalists, Pro's Alex Guillén reports. EPA "recently sent invitations to additional organizations representing the regulated community and state governments," Robert Kavlock, the acting assistant administrator for research and development, wrote last week to Smith. The meeting was initially planned for Wednesday, but it has been postponed and will be rescheduled. The scientific integrity official, Francesca Grifo, has been out sick in recent weeks.

DOZEN MORE CITIES POST CLIMATE DATA: Following the lead of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, 12 more cities are joining efforts to post EPA climate change information that the Trump administration has removed from its website. "I will continue to work with these Mayors and all those involved in the Climate Alliance to take action at the local level, including honoring the Paris Agreement," Emanuel said in a statement. Cities joining the effort are Atlanta; Boston; Evanston, Ill.; Fayetteville, Ark.; Houston; Milwaukee; New Orleans; Philadelphia; Portland, Ore.; San Francisco; Seattle; and St. Louis.

DEFENSE'S ENERGY WIZARD TAPPED: Trump late Friday announced his intent to nominate Lucian Niemeyer to serve as assistant secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment. He was previously a long-time staffer on the Senate Armed Services Committee where he ran the military installation portfolio and conducted oversight of federal energy and environmental programs. He currently works as a senior adviser to the Roosevelt Group, according to the defense consulting firm's website.

MINOR ENERGY BILLS HIT HOUSE FLOOR: Lawmakers today vote on 10 minor energy bills in the House with most having to do with extending the deadlines for hydroelectric power projects. A couple of exceptions: H.R. 338, which aims to have DOE prioritize training for modern energy and manufacturing jobs; H.R. 1109, which would amend the Federal Power Act to set $10 million as the minimum threshold for mergers and acquisitions subject to FERC jurisdiction and H.R. 627, which aims to spread information about federal programs available to help schools fund energy efficiency efforts. Full list of bills available here.

SCHUMER PUSHES REPUBLICANS ON OVERSIGHT REQUESTS: Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer hailed Sen. Chuck Grassley's letter calling an administration policy pushing agencies to only respond to Republican oversight requests "nonsense " and urged other Republican chairmen to follow of the Iowan's lead. "We believe the administration has a responsibility to be responsive to oversight requests regardless of party," Schumer said in a statement. "We hope other Republican chairmen will follow Chairman Grassley's lead in demanding the administration withdraw this misguided memo."

POLIS LAUNCHING COLORADO GOVERNOR BID: Colorado Rep. Jared Polis will this week jump into a crowded Democratic field seeking to replace term-limited John Hickenlooper, POLITICO's Rebecca Morin reports. One of the key planks of his bid, he told the Denver Post, will be getting the state to 100 percent renewable energy by 2040.

MORE STAFFING UP: Veteran Hogan Lovells energy attorney Patrick Traylor has joined EPA as a deputy in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Pro's Alex Guillén reports, citing the agency's website and Traylor's LinkedIn profile . He's specialized in Clean Air Act issues, environmental litigation and infrastructure at Hogan Lovells, where he's worked since 1997. Previous clients include: utility Southern California Edison; Venture Global LNG, a natural gas exporter; Flint Hills Resources, a Koch subsidiary refiner; Koch Nitrogen, maker of synthetic fertilizer; and several wind companies seeking Endangered Species Act permits.

ELECTRIC BIGWIGS GATHER: The Edison Electric Institute gathers today in Boston to kick off its annual conference. Keynote speakers include NBC's Tom Brokaw and retired general Keith Alexander. Full schedule here.

QUICK HITS

— Russia, Saudis See Oil Inventories Falling After Price Drop. Bloomberg.

— 193 nations urge action to protect oceans — with US protest. Washington Post.

— Climate change seen as posing risk to coastal areas. AP.

— Even in Nebraska, which hasn't shied away from coal, other energy sources are gaining use. Omaha World-Herald.

— Drilling near W. Texas springs spurs intense scrutiny. Longview News-Journal.

— Toshiba to Cough Up $3.68 Billion to Finish Troubled U.S. Nuclear Plant. Wall Street Journal.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

9:00 a.m. — "8th Annual Citizens' Climate International Conference & Lobby Day," Citizens Climate Lobby, Omni Shoreham, 2500 Calvert Street NW

9:30 a.m. — "China's Great Green Grid? Capturing Wasted Wind and Solar Power for Bluer Skies and Clearer Waters," Wilson Center, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

12:00 p.m. — "A Conversation with Meg Gentle, President & CEO, Tellurian Inc.," The Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street NW, 12th Floor

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m. — "The Methanol Policy Forum," National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor

10:00 a.m. — Senate committee hearing on NRC and EPA nominations, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 406 Dirksen

10:00 a.m. — "Small Watershed Infrastructure: Continuing the Mission, Building upon Success," House Agriculture Committee's Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee, 1300 Longworth

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. — "States' Perspectives on Energy Security Planning, Emergency Preparedness, and State Energy Programs," House Energy and Commerce Energy Subcommittee, 2123 Rayburn

10:00 a.m. — "Legislative Hearing on S. 517, the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act," Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, 406 Dirksen

10:00 a.m. — Legislative hearing on "Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act," House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee, 1324 Longworth

2:00 p.m. — Subcommittee legislative hearing to receive testimony on various bills, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power, 366 Dirksen

2:30 p.m. — Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on the National Nuclear Security Administration, 138 Dirksen

THURSDAY

9:30 a.m. — "U.S. launch of the BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2017," Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street NW, 12th Floor

10:00 a.m. — "Legislative Hearing on Discussion Draft of Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017," House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands, 1324 Longworth

10:00 a.m. — "Hearing to examine the President's budget request for the U.S. Forest Service for Fiscal Year 2018," Senate Energy and Natural Resources, 366 Dirksen

11:00 a.m. — "Environmental Protection Agency - Budget Hearing with Administrator Scott Pruitt," House Appropriations Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, 2007 Rayburn

12:30 p.m. — Natural Gas Roundtable with BP Group Chief Economist Spencer Dale, American Gas Association, University Club, 1135 16th Street, NW

FRIDAY

12:00 p.m. — "The Western Energy Imbalance Market," Women's Council on Energy and the Environment, FERC, 888 First Street, NE

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

To view online:
https://www.politicopro.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2017/06/pruitt-briefly-attends-g7-environment-meeting-023247

Stories from POLITICO Pro

Italian minister: G-7 'distant' on climate change Back

By Sara Stefanini | 06/11/2017 11:06 AM EDT

BOLOGNA, Italy — G-7 ministers are in "complete agreement" on all the environmental issues they're discussing today and Monday — except for climate change, Italian Environment Minister Gian Luca Galletti told reporters today.

The two-day G-7 environment ministers gathering comes 10 days after President Donald Trump confirmed that he would withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement.

But even before his announcement, American resistance to tackling climate change emerged as a sticking point at the G-7 leaders' summit last month and the G-7 energy meeting in April, where the ministers failed to agree on a communiqué.

"The positions, especially on Paris, are distant positions," said Galletti, host of the environment meeting.

"Here in Bologna we're doing very important work, we're mending. We'll only know at the end what result it will have, but we have already obtained a result because we continue to talk, to identify solutions and common objectives," he added. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is in Bologna representing the U.S. but is leaving this afternoon.

Galletti said his early departure was always planned because of a meeting with Trump.

"The administrator has had bilateral meetings with a number of our G-7 partners discussing the importance of engagement and environmental issues including conservation, food waste, climate, marine litter and resource efficiency," Lincoln Ferguson, Pruitt's spokesman, told POLITICO by email.

Patricia Espinosa, head of the United Nations' climate change secretariat, told reporters that Pruitt said the U.S. wants to continue to make efforts to combat climate change and engage with the secretariat.

This article first appeared on POLITICO.EU on June 11, 2017.

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Back

Zinke's Bears Ears plan due this weekend Back

By Esther Whieldon | 06/09/2017 03:28 PM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is slated to send the White House his recommendations this weekend on whether to roll back the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah that was established in the waning days of the Obama administration.

The 1.4 million-acre monument was among the final conservation acts under former President Barack Obama, who added nearly 760,000 square miles to the nation's protected lands during his two terms, angering Republicans who accused him of overriding local opposition and abusing the Antiquities Act to put vast acreage off limits for commercial activity, including mining, oil and gas development.

Before the monument designation, oIl and gas producer EOG Resources had planned to drill new exploratory wells there as part of its operations in the lucrative Uinta Basin, a move that drew opposition from local groups that complained the work would spoil an important gateway to the Bears Ears site.

Zinke, who traveled to Bears Ears and the Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments last month, could recommend that President Donald Trump shrink or completely revoke the monument designation — moves that environmental groups and Democrats in Congress have vowed to fight — or he could press for lawmakers to come up with a legislative solution, a path that yielded no success in the past.

According to Zinke's predecessor, former Secretary Sally Jewell, the administration had held off establishing the Bears Ears Monument until it failed to reach a deal to address its concerns through the Utah Public Lands Initiative legislation proposed by Utah Republicans Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.

"The Bears Ears Monument declaration was done in December because no credible effort was put forth by the Utah delegation to do it through congressional means in spite of repeated offers and efforts to help them do that," Jewell told POLITICO.

Jewell said her agency had been in discussions with Utah lawmakers on legislation that could pass both chambers, and that Obama had delayed creating the monument hoping for a compromise that would "recognize the areas that were very important for conservation and preservation" as well as those with "high development potential largely for oil, gas and mining."

But the legislation that emerged, she contended, did not include compromise language the administration hoped would garner bipartisan support in Congress. Instead, she said, Bishop's legislation had changed the definition of wilderness, transferred firefighting efforts over to the

state and allowed motorized equipment in wilderness areas for tree clearing.

Bishop denies that his legislation surprised anyone, saying it was the environmental community that "bailed on us" early in 2016. Bishop's committee passed the Public Lands Initiative in September, but the measure never made it to a floor vote.

Obama's move to create the monument drew an angry reaction from the Utah delegation, including Chaffetz, who called Bears Ears a "midnight monument" that disregarded economic development and multiple land use provisions that had been in a bill.

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) also disputed Jewell's contention, saying in an emailed statement that it was the previous administration that did not work in good faith with the Utah delegation and ultimately "chose to run down the clock."

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Back

As Trump exits Paris accord, investors bring climate change into boardrooms Back

By Ben Lefebvre | 06/09/2017 03:33 PM EDT

As President Donald Trump reduces the pressure on businesses to deal with climate change, activist investors are flooding company shareholder meetings to apply it themselves.

The grassroots campaign has picked up significant momentum, even as it has been overshadowed by Trump's decision to abandon the Paris climate accord and his efforts to dismantle federal policies to limit heat-trapping emissions. This year, for the first time, majority owners of three major energy companies endorsed resolutions calling for them to disclose how government efforts to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius would affect their businesses.

Exxon Mobil shareholders endorsed one such resolution just the day before Trump's Rose Garden announcement that he would pull the U.S. out of the global climate agreement because, he said, it would harm manufacturing. Similar resolutions were adopted by investors in Occidental Petroleum and Pennsylvania-based PPL Electric Utilities. And at utilities Ameren, Dominion Energy, Duke Energy and DTE, climate-focused shareholder resolutions came within a few percentage points of succeeding.

The resolutions sprung from efforts among dozens of institutional investors — including the New York Comptroller, the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the Church of England — who teamed up with activist groups including Ceres and As You Sow. This year they targeted 15 publicly traded energy companies with shareholder resolutions calling for companies to disclose how changes in government climate policies could change their businesses.

"There's a growing realization of this systemic risk that climate change poses to investors," said

Adam Matthews, head of engagement for the Church of England's commissioners and pension boards, which owns stock in Exxon Mobil as part of an overall $10 billion in holdings. "You've got a lot of dialogue between asset owners and major funds, and there's a clearer realization of the importance of addressing climate change. It's a shame what happened in the terms of the U.S. and the position of Donald Trump withdrawing from Paris, but the message to investors is this is longer-term than any one President. The train has left the station."

To be sure, the resolutions are non-binding, but corporate boards typically respond to the wishes expressed by shareholders.

Investors worried that a company isn't doing enough to deal with falling demand for gasoline, for example, may sell their shares to invest in a competitor. Or green-minded investors may support a hostile takeover of the company by activist investors who promise to take climate change more seriously.

Part of what helped the climate resolutions this year was growing support from cool-eyed capitalists, alongside the more liberal-minded shareholders who have championed them in the past. That was the case this year with Occidental Petroleum and investment firm Blackrock, one of its major shareholders.

Blackrock, which manages $5.4 trillion in its overall portfolio, decided in 2015 that climate change could pose a significant risk to some of the companies it owns. Still, the firm sided with Occidental's management last year to help stave off a climate related resolution to give the oil company more time to address the issue on its own.

By the time this year's shareholder meeting came around, Blackrock decided to endorse activist investors' effort to get the company to do more. A resolution urging Occidental to publish annual assessments of how government climate change policies could risks its business passed with support from 67 percent of voting shareholders.

"Our patience is not infinite — when we do not see progress despite ongoing engagement, or companies are insufficiently responsive to our efforts to protect the long-term economic interests of our clients, we will not hesitate to exercise our right to vote against management recommendations," Blackrock said in a letter to clients endorsing the resolution.

Blackrock's support demonstrated the growing economic appeal of climate resolutions that activist shareholders have been organizing around for years.

The win at Exxon only occurred after the Church of England sought potential allies via Ceres, a Boston-based nonprofit that helps connect investors interested in various social causes. The Church eventually made contact with New York State Comptroller, which holds Exxon shares through its retirement fund.

Exxon CEO Darren Woods said before the company's annual shareholder meeting that the company supports the Paris provisions and would factor government climate policies into its business plan. But investors still wanted to ensure the company would keep that promise, New

York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli said.

"As investors, we want to be sure that companies like Exxon walk the walk when it comes to climate risk, and that's where our shareholder resolutions can be very effective," DiNapoli told POLITICO. "No company wants to be in a fight with a majority of its shareholders."

Exxon's board will reconsider the provision to disclose how climate policies would impact is business, Woods said after the vote, in which 62 percent of voting shareholders endorsed the climate resolution. The Church of England, whose other holdings include BP and Shell, will continue to focus on bringing climate-related risk disclosure resolutions up. But will also start looking at a potential next step — forcing companies to publicize how climate change is affecting their financial performance, Matthews said.

In many cases, investors and nonprofits are trying to convince energy executives to incorporate more climate-related disclosures outside the threat of resolutions.

As You Sow, a nonprofit that lobbies companies on the behalf of shareholders, filed a climate-related resolution with Anadarko Petroleum that would have gone to shareholders this year. It withdrew the resolution after getting a meeting with Anadarko's CEO and other executives at the company's headquarters outside Houston, according to representatives of both entities.

"We wanted to talk and work together to see if there way to move forward with carbon reporting," said Danielle Fugere, As You Sow's chief counsel. "We had a good discussion, and we will have another meeting or two."

Despite the few outright wins at shareholder meetings this year, the relatively strong showing has convinced some that the movement is gaining momentum. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), who on the floor of the senate last week called American corporations "AWOL in the policies of climate change," said he is encouraged by the progress.

"For the first time, after hundreds and hundreds of these resolutions have gone to failure at the hands of company management, shareholders are starting to win," Whitehouse told POLITICO. "Part of what that's about is very big and very smart investors coming to the realization that they are not getting adequate information when it comes to fossil fuel liability. The power of a Blackrock, Goldman Sachs or CalPERS is engaged in a new and different way."

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Exxon says carbon cost differences did not mislead investors Back

By Ben Lefebvre | 06/09/2017 02:26 PM EDT

Exxon Mobil lawyers swung back at New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's

allegations that the oil giant used a separate carbon price that it did not disclose to investors, saying the practice did not mislead investors.

The company's filing today in the New York state Supreme Court is the latest round in the legal battle between Exxon and Schneiderman. The New York attorney general filed a suit against the oil giant alleging that it may have defrauded investors by keeping its in-house research on climate change hidden.

Exxon for its part has refused to comply with all of the attorney general's subpoena requests, accusing Schneiderman of using the case to further his career.

Exxon said it used different numbers as part of different calculations, including some taking global energy demand and prices into account and others calculating possible project investments. That meant it was appropriate to use various numbers, not just those included in its public filings, the company argued.

"Considering the different purposes of those two exercises, it is unsurprising that different figures would be used," Exxon's attorneys wrote in the filing. "ExxonMobil has not said that it relied on one set of figures for all purposes, and a reasonable investor would not draw such a conclusion from ExxonMobil's public statements."

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EPW to vote on Svinicki June 15 Back

By Darius Dixon | 06/09/2017 05:11 PM EDT

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee intends to vote on the renomination of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairwoman Kristine Svinicki on June 15, a panel spokesman told POLITICO today.

Svinicki, a Republican whose term expires June 30, will move forward before the panel votes on fellow NRC nominees Annie Caputo and David Wright, said Mike Danylak, a spokesman for Environment and Public Works Chairman John Barrasso.

The committee will vote on the appointments of Caputo, Wright and EPA enforcement nominee Susan Bodine later in the month, but a June 13 hearing will still consider all four nominees.

Earlier this week, Sen. Tom Carper, Environment and Public Works' top Democrat, told reporters that he supports Svinicki's renomination and asked Barrasso that she get confirmed while the panel reviews the other two Republican nominees and packages them with a renomination of NRC Commissioner Jeff Baran, a Democrat whose term runs out next summer.

WHAT'S NEXT: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has scheduled a nomination hearing to review Bodine and all three GOP NRC nominees on June 13.

To view online click here.

Back

EPA reschedules science meeting to add industry voices after Smith cries foul Back

By Alex Guillén | 06/09/2017 03:43 PM EDT

EPA has postponed an upcoming meeting hosted by the agency's scientific integrity official and invited more industry officials and state representatives, following complaints from a senior Republican lawmaker.

The meeting is an annual event at which the scientific integrity official, Francesca Grifo, discusses her work and the agency's scientific integrity policy. House Science Chairman Lamar Smith last month flagged the meeting after discovering the guest list primarily consisted of environmentalists, science organizations, watchdog groups, certain media representatives and think tanks, but almost no one from regulated industries.

EPA "agrees that invitees to the EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder meeting should include a balanced representation of those organizations having an interest in scientific integrity at the EPA," Robert Kavlock, the acting assistant administrator for research and development, wrote this week to Smith.

Previous meetings included more industry attendees, and EPA "recently sent invitations to additional organizations representing the regulated community and state governments."

A separate email to invitees seen by POLITICO said the meeting would be rescheduled, but did not specify a timeline.

Grifo, a career official who was hired from the Union of Concerned Scientists in 2013, rose to prominence this spring when she was asked to investigate the Sierra Club's complaint that Administrator Scott Pruitt violated EPA's scientific integrity policy by saying on television that carbon dioxide is not a primary driver of climate change.

Earlier this week, the free-market group Cause of Action Institute filed a Freedom of Information request it says is meant to investigate alleged politicization in Grifo's office.

WHAT'S NEXT: EPA will invite more industry and state representatives and reschedule the meeting for a future date.

To view online click here.

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Chicago mayor Emanuel posts EPA's deleted climate change page Back

By Edward-Isaac Dovere | 05/06/2017 10:42 AM EDT

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's response to the Trump administration pulling down its website detailing information about climate change: putting up his own.

The new section of the City of Chicago's website, launched this weekend, pulls data from the archived Environmental Protection Agency page, noting, "while this information may not be readily available on the agency's webpage right now, here in Chicago we know climate change is real and we will continue to take action to fight it." Emanuel is promising to build the site out more in the coming weeks, using city resources.

"The Trump administration can attempt to erase decades of work from scientists and federal employees on the reality of climate change, but burying your head in the sand doesn't erase the problem," Emanuel said.

Through both Republican and Democratic administrations in the past two decades, the EPA accepted and promoted climate change data. That changed under President Donald Trump, who's expressed doubts about the science and already eliminated regulations put in place by President Barack Obama, and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who has repeatedly questioned global warming and fought environmental protections from the government he argues unfairly target businesses.

Last week, the EPA scrapped the climate-change website.

"We are currently updating our website to reflect EPA's priorities under the leadership of President Trump and Administrator Pruitt," a message on the "page is being updated" EPA site has read since.

Emanuel said he wants to see other cities and universities joining in preserving the data that the federal government is removing to ensure it stays public.

Emanuel, in office in 2011 after serving as Obama's first chief of staff, has a local environmental record reducing carbon emissions and waste that he likes to tout.
The new Chicago website has information about the science of climate change and its effects on the weather, human impact that has accelerated the problem and steps the federal government had been taking to reduce it.

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Grassley rips Trump administration for blowing off certain oversight requests Back

By Burgess Everett | 06/09/2017 11:25 AM EDT

The Trump administration's policy of ignoring the oversight requests of Democrats and rank-and-file members has earned it a powerful enemy: Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley.

In a letter to President Donald Trump, the veteran Iowa Republican senator urged Trump to reverse a policy instituted by the White House and the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel to answer oversight requests only from committee chairmen, all of whom are Republicans because of GOP control of Congress. Though Grassley said that the Obama administration did sometimes ignore him, he said the formalization of a policy of ignoring the minority party "doesn't drain the swamp, Mr. President. It floods the swamp."

"I respectfully request that the White House rescind this OLC opinion and any policy of ignoring oversight request from non-Chairmen. It harms not just the members who happen to be in the minority party at the moment, but also, members in the majority party who are not currently chairmen. It obstructs what ought to be the natural flow of information between agencies and the committees, which frustrates the constitutional function of legislating," Grassley wrote.

He was not near done. In the seven-page letter to the president, Grassley calls the administration's opinion "nonsense" and argues that the president is being "ill-served and ill-advised" by his staff.

"To so fundamentally misunderstand and misstate such a simple fact exposes its shocking lack of professionalism and objectivity. Indeed, OLC appears to have utterly failed to live up to its own standards," Grassley added.

The Justice Department declined to comment to Grassley's letter. The White House did not immediately respond.

Fearing the weaponization of oversight requests by Democrats amid a deepening investigation into the administration's ties to Russia, White House officials instructed government agencies not to respond to oversight requests from anyone other than chairmen last month. Also in May, OLC wrote a guidance memo that formally restricted the flow of information to Democrats.

"Individual members of Congress, including ranking minority members, do not have the authority to conduct oversight in the absence of a specific delegation by a full house, committee, or subcommittee," OLC wrote in the memo.

There have been some exceptions to this policy on subjects like national security and at the Treasury Department, according to Democratic and Republican Hill staffers. But Democrats released dozens of letters on Thursday that they said have gone substantively unanswered by the Trump administration.

Democrats are outraged at the moves by the Trump White House to squash their requests, which range from overtly partisan letters asking for information that would likely damage the president to parochial issues that will never grab headlines. And now, some Republicans are, too.

"Members of Congress simply do not treat executive branch officials with such contempt and they do not deserve such treatment in return," Grassley wrote. "Unlike virtually all executive branch officials, Members are elected to constitutional positions. Instead, the executive branch should work to cooperate in good faith with all congressional requests to the fullest extent possible."

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Polis to run for Colorado governor Back

By Rebecca Morin | 06/11/2017 01:41 PM EDT

Colorado Rep. Jared Polis will announce his bid for Colorado governor this week, according to an interview.

"This is a campaign of big, bold ideas, and I'm trying to make them happen," Polis told The Denver Post on Sunday. "We want a Colorado that works for everybody."

Polis, a Democrat, is jumping into a crowded field. Four other Democrats — Rep. Ed Perlmutter, former state Sen. Mike Johnston, former state Treasurer Cary Kennedy and businessman Noel Ginsburg — are also vying for the position in next year's election.

A number of Republicans are also running in the race, including Mitt Romney's nephew Doug Robinson; George Brauchler, the prosecutor in the Aurora theater shooting case; and former state legislator Victor Mitchell.

Democrat John Hickenlooper, the current governor, is ineligible to seek another term.

Polis, who would be Colorado's first openly gay governor if elected, told the Post his platform would focus on getting the state to 100 percent renewable energy by 2040, providing free access to full-day preschool or kindergarten for those 3 and older, and encouraging companies in Colorado to provide stock options to employees.

Polis tweeted Sunday that he would finish his term in the House.

"I currently plan to serve out my term to help the #resistance and fight Trump's radical agenda," he wrote.

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EPA hires energy attorney for enforcement office Back

By Alex Guillén | 06/09/2017 04:50 PM EDT

EPA has hired veteran Hogan Lovells energy attorney Patrick Traylor as a deputy in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, according to the agency's website and his LinkedIn profile.

Traylor has been an attorney at Hogan Lovells since 1997 and specialized in Clean Air Act issues, environmental litigation and infrastructure.

According to his law firm biography, Traylor's clients included the utility Southern California Edison; Venture Global LNG, a natural gas exporter; Flint Hills Resources, a Koch subsidiary refiner; Koch Nitrogen, maker of synthetic fertilizer; and several wind companies seeking Endangered Species Act permits. The bio also says he "helped secure an 'against all odds' series of permits authorizing the expansion of a coal mine on the Navajo Nation for BHP Billiton."

Other clients included TransCanada, Dominion Energy, AES Corp., NRG Energy and the Anschutz Corporation, according to the Energy Bar Association.

Traylor earned his law degree from the South Texas College of Law in 1994 and received an advanced degree in environmental law from George Washington University in 1998.

President Donald Trump's nominee to run the enforcement office, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee staffer Susan Bodine, is slated to have a confirmation hearing next week.

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Subject: Italian minister: G-7 'distant' on climate change

By Sara Stefanini

06/11/2017 11:06 AM EDT

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The two-day G-7 environment ministers gathering comes 10 days after President Donald Trump confirmed that he would withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement.

But even before his announcement, American resistance to tackling climate change emerged as a sticking point at the G-7 leaders' summit last month and the G-7 energy meeting in April, where the ministers failed to agree on a communiqué.

"The positions, especially on Paris, are distant positions," said Galletti, host of the environment meeting.

"Here in Bologna we're doing very important work, we're mending. We'll only know at the end what result it will have, but we have already obtained a result because we continue to talk, to identify solutions and common objectives," he added. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is in Bologna representing the U.S. but is leaving this afternoon.

Galletti said his early departure was always planned because of a meeting with Trump.

"The administrator has had bilateral meetings with a number of our G-7 partners discussing the importance of engagement and environmental issues including conservation, food waste, climate, marine litter and resource efficiency," Lincoln Ferguson, Pruitt's spokesman, told POLITICO by email.

Patricia Espinosa, head of the United Nations' climate change secretariat, told reporters that Pruitt said the U.S. wants to continue to make efforts to combat climate change and engage with the secretariat.

This article first appeared on POLITICO.EU on June 11, 2017.

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https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/06/italian-minister-g-7-distant-on-climate-change-088899

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

EPA Head Addresses Energy Issues

Anna Wolfe
October 13, 2017
http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/local/2017/10/13/epa-water-energy-mississippi/757533001/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt visited Mississippi Thursday to discuss proposed changes to the Waters of the United States rule, just days after announcing the repeal of the Clean Power Plan.

The water rule sought to control pollution under the Clean Water Act of 1972 and had extended the federal government's authority over small waterways. Republicans and industry groups argue that it required costly and unnecessary permitting. The rule was also the subject of litigation.

Pruitt said he's meeting with government agencies and stakeholders across the country to get input on how to best craft the new definition of U.S. waters. The definition implemented in 2015, Pruitt argues, "has created substantial confusion."

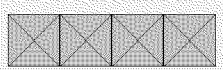
"The whole focus that they said at the time was 'we're doing this to ensure certainty.' If that was their certainty, they failed miserably. Because truly, land use positions, jurisdictional determination, about where federal jurisdiction begins and ends, has never been more confusing."

Gov. Phil Bryant was among many governors who initiated a challenge to the Waters of the United States rule.

"Regulatory uncertainty has been the greatest impediment to economic growth over the last several years, and it's not just in the energy and environmental space. It's in finance. It's in health care. It's across a full spectrum of agency actions in Washington D.C.," Pruitt told The Clarion-Ledger. "But this WOTUS rule is one that I believe of the greatest example of uncertainty that was created because people literally quit using their land or they were concerned about using the land because of the potential for fines and penalties."

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 10/6/2017 8:10:06 PM
Subject: EPA Administrator Visits with Arizona Governor Doug Ducey

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Administrator Visits with Arizona Governor Doug Ducey

Pruitt Officially Approves Arizona Regional Haze State Implementation Plan

PHOENIX (October 6, 2017): Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt visited with Arizona Governor Doug Ducey today where he officially approved an Arizona Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) and a withdrawal of Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for Coronado Generation Station ("Coronado"). This action approves a source-specific revision to the Arizona Regional Haze SIP for Coronado and withdraws from a FIP promulgated by the EPA in 2012 for Coronado, a facility located in eastern Arizona and owned and operated by the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement District (SRP).

"Governor Ducey and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality have delivered a thorough plan that aims to improve visibility and reduce emissions that cause regional haze," **said Administrator Pruitt**. "Our goal at EPA is not to use a one-size-fits-all approach to addressing state environmental problems, but to empower our state partners to make their own plans to address their individual environmental needs."

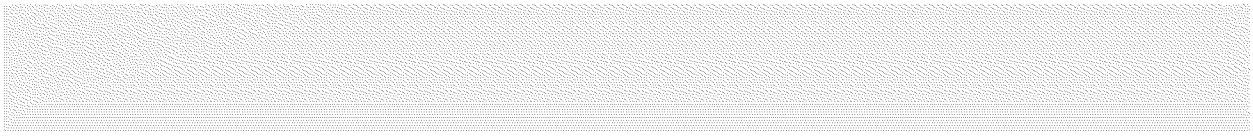
"Arizonans should chart their own destiny, rather than being forced to comply with one-size-fits-all policies from the federal government," **said Governor Ducey.** "What a welcome change to have EPA Administrator Pruitt who understands these decisions are best made at the state level and that taxpayer dollars can be saved by shifting decisions out of Washington, D.C."

Administrator Pruitt began his visit meeting with Governor Doug Ducey to discuss replacing the Obama-era FIP. Following their meeting, Administrator Pruitt and Governor Ducey held a roundtable with Arizona industry leaders where they discussed the FIP replacement, National Manufacturing Day, streamlining regulatory burdens and permitting, the Agency's proposal to rescind the 2015 "Waters of the United States" rule, and the Agency's review of the Clean Power Plan in light of President Trump's executive order.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Arizona Governor Doug Ducey

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 10/26/2017 10:50:01 AM
Subject: EPA's Pruitt Denies He's an Ally of Polluters, Vows to Get Tough

BLOOMBERG

EPA's Pruitt Denies He's an Ally of Polluters, Vows to Get Tough

Jennifer A Dlouhy and Jennifer Jacobs
Bloomberg
October 25, 2017
https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-25/epa-s-pruitt-denies-he-s-an-ally-of-polluters-vows-to-get-tough

Scott Pruitt, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, vowed that he will get tough on corporate polluters, dismissing critics who cast him as too cozy with industry.

"They don't know me," Pruitt said, during an interview with Bloomberg News in his Washington office. "I've led a grand jury. We are going to do enforcement, to go after bad actors and go after polluters."

Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general, is leading the efforts to roll back Obama-era environmental regulations, including the first limits on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and an overhaul of clean-water rules. Despite moving to rescind those measures, those that remain in place will be fully enforced, he said.

"I know what it means to prosecute people," he said. "And we've got some of those folks across the country -- those people that are intentionally taking steps to pollute our water, to pollute our air."

While coal miners, manufacturers and oil companies have praised Pruitt's efforts to halt or rescind regulations, environmental advocates say he's the leading example of a Trump administration appointee who has an agenda that conflicts with the very nature of the agency he leads.

Under former President Barack Obama, the EPA played a pivotal role in the government's fight against climate change, proposing sweeping rules to limit on methane leaks from oil wells and carbon-dioxide emissions from coal plants. Pruitt, who sued the EPA more than a dozen time to challenge those and other regulations, by contrast, is pursuing what he calls a "back to basics" agenda that he says will prioritize action on traditional pollutants.

...

Pruitt highlighted the EPA's decision earlier this month to approve a plan for removing toxins from the San Jacinto Waste Pits, a Superfund site near Houston that began leaking cancer-causing dioxin after flooding from Hurricane Harvey.

That included ordering two companies -- International Paper Co. and a subsidiary of Waste Management Inc. -- to pay an estimated $115 million toward excavating more than 212,000 cubic

yards of contaminated waste from the site. Both companies have objected to the cleanup plan.

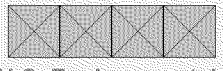
"And they are already barking down there," Pruitt said, referencing those companies' complaints. Pruitt said he was told some people would be "surprised" he would seek to hold Fortune 500 companies accountable.

Another example: In June, the Trump administration filed a lawsuit alleging that a Colorado-based oil company repeatedly violated clean air rules by allowing volatile organic compounds to escape from of storage-tank batteries. According to the complaint filed in that civil case, the EPA alleged that PDC Energy Inc. failed to adequately design, operate and maintain control systems on those tanks., resulting in those leaks. That case is ongoing.

"I am here because I really feel called to it," Pruitt said. "My desire each day is to bless the president and the decisions he's making."

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 10/4/2017 6:50:50 PM
Subject: EPA Announces Appointment of Cosmo Servidio to Region 3 Administrator

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Announces Appointment of Cosmo Servidio to Region 3 Administrator

WASHINGTON (October 4,2017) –Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Cosmo Servidio of Pennsylvania to become regional administrator for Region 3. Mr. Servidio will oversee environmental protection efforts in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Cosmo Servidio currently holds the position of director of environmental affairs for the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority in Pennsylvania where he plays a vital leadership role in one of the state's largest water and wastewater utilities. Mr. Servidio oversees operations and facility planning to help identify needed improvements to maintain essential water and wastewater services and provides oversight to ensure utilities comply with all state and federal requirements. Prior to joining Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority, Mr. Servidio served as regional director for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the Southern Region, where he worked to ensure staff implemented the Department's priorities to improve air quality, waste management, radiation protection, remediation, conservation, safe drinking water, dam safety, and clean water programs.

Mr. Servidio also served as the chief of staff for EPA's Region 2 headquarters from 2005-2009, where he helped administer federal programs in implementing the Agency's mission in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virginia Islands.

"Cosmo Servidio has spent much of his career providing administrative support for institutions that provide healthy environmental outcomes for the public," **said Administrator Pruitt**. "He brings federal, state, and local administrative experience working in the environmental field and will provide exceptional leadership for Region 3."

Cosmo Servidio's appointment is receiving support from across the region:

Douglas Bilheimer, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association: "We are very pleased to learn that Cosmo Servidio has been appointed to serve as director of EPA Region 3. Mr. Servidio's background at Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection and most recently with one of our largest most progressive municipal authorities will serve him well in his new responsibilities."

Austin Caperton, Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection: "I was very encouraged by my first meeting by phone with Cosmo Servidio. He is obviously experienced and qualified for the position. It was clear that he believes in cooperative federalism and the rights of states. He is clearly in line with the current administration. But most important to me: he listened!"

Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment: "Cosmo is a seasoned environmental

professional who knows how to build partnerships for progress throughout our region."

Debra McCarty, Commissioner of the Philadelphia Water Department: "Cosmo Servido is an excellent appointment. He was good to work with at the PA DEP and will bring pragmatism, experience and commonsense to the EPA. I look forward to again working him in this new role to protect the environment."

Maya K. van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper: "Cosmo Servidio is the best choice for Regional Administrator. He is highly regarded by throughout the environmental community. This respect has been earned by the fair minded and forthright decisions and actions taken by Cosmo to implement the law and achieve the goals of community and environmental protection. Even if there was a decision Cosmo made in his role as regional director at PADEP that I didn't like or agree with, I always knew it was a decision grounded in the facts, the law and one that Cosmo truly believed was the right outcome. I might not always like the answers Cosmo gave me as a regulator, but I always knew I could trust that he was telling me the truth. That kind of integrity from a Regional Administrator is critical for success, particularly in today's political climate."

Wilmer Stoneman, Director of Commodities and Marketing, Virginia Farm Bureau: "Virginia Farm Bureau certainly welcomes this opportunity to work with Mr. Servidio to balance the needs of Virginia Farmers and the Chesapeake Bay."

Jeff Warmann, CEO and President, Monroe Energy LLC: "Cosmo's leadership is unparalleled. He has a keen ability to bring regulators and business together, ensuring that they communicate effectively and that their shared goals of protecting the environment are achieved. Cosmo and his team were readily available to answer any questions we had or to provide guidance when needed. I want to congratulate Cosmo on his appointment to Region Three Administrator; I know that he will do a tremendous job."

Rob Wonderling, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia: "On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia we applaud the recent appointment of Cosmo Servidio as the Region III EPA Administrator. Cosmo has served our region well as a public servant and business leader who keenly understands that environmental stewardship and economic growth require consensus, collaboration, and a modern approach to policy and regulation. Cosmo has a proven track record of being a highly energetic leader and innovative leader who actively listens to all sides and perspectives related to complex environmental issues. He also has a keen eye on global trends, solid science, and macroeconomic opportunities that will serve our region and nation well in this new assignment."

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 11/30/2017 8:20:02 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: EPA Administrator Pruitt Visits Kentucky

EPA Administrator Pruitt Visits Kentucky
Meets with Farmers and State Officials

Louisville, Ky. (November 30, 2017) – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt visited Kentucky to address members of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation and meet with Governor Matt Bevin and members of his cabinet to discuss ways to strengthen the Agency's partnership with the state.

"Farmers and ranchers are some of the nation's first environmentalists," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "We should be working with them, as partners, to conserve our natural resources – while continuing to support and grow our local economies."

While meeting with the Kentucky Farm Bureau, Administrator Pruitt discussed a variety of environmental issues. The topics included EPA's recent proposal to rescind the 2015 "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule to help ensure regulatory certainty for America's farmers and landowners and prioritize keeping America's water clean. He also discussed the Agency's new requirements on the pesticide dicamba that will allow farmers to make informed choices for seed purchases for the upcoming 2018 growing season and minimize potential drift to damage neighboring crops.

Following the farm bureau meeting, the Administrator joined Kentucky Governor Bevin and some of his cabinet officials for a working lunch.

"America is blessed to have a public servant like EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who works diligently to be a good steward of the earth and protect America's working class," **said Governor Matt Bevin**. "His time spent with local, state and federal officials to enact thoughtful environmental regulations has been extraordinary, and we are thankful for his leadership."

"We appreciate the EPA Administrator visiting our annual meeting to listen to farmers about their conservation efforts and concerns related to their operations," **said Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney.** "Administrator Pruitt, a fellow Kentuckian, knows the hard work our farmers put in on a daily basis to keep our farms financially and environmentally sustainable."

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses members of the Kentucky Farm Bureau.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt meets with Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin and members of his cabinet.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 11/16/2017 10:10:01 PM
Subject: EPA's Scott Pruitt drains the swamp like no one else in Washington

Pruitt is a man who gets things done. Despite resistance from within his own agency and an environment lobby bent on stopping him ...

EPA's Scott Pruitt Drains The Swamp Like No One Else In Washington

The Hill
November 16, 2017
Emmett McGroarty And Erin Tuttle
http://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/360763-epas-scott-pruitt-drains-the-swamp-like-no-one-else-in-washington

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is a man who gets things done. Despite resistance from within his own agency and an environment lobby bent on stopping him, he's doing his part to drain the swamp and return government to the people. He's bringing what citizens demand of a federal agency: Transparency and reasoned, fact-based decision-making resting on sound statutory footing.

Take the contentious issue of global warming. Pruitt called for a reasoned debate. But his critics mocked the suggestion, claiming it would be an outrage to place "fringe" views on an even platform with "established, peer-reviewed research." But it is tyrants and mobs — not reasonable policymakers intent on serving the public — who ridicule debate and discussion. It undercuts arbitrary rule and fear, their chief weapons.

Consider Pruitt's recent directive prohibiting scientists from serving on one of the agency's three main advisory panels while they are receiving EPA grant funding. It applies to the three main advisory boards at the EPA: The Science Advisory Board, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), and the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC).

Pruitt made the case that the directive is necessary to ensure the agency's research programs are informed by independent experts with no financial ties to the programs. As he noted, advisory board members have received $77 million in grant money over the past three years — half of the total amount allotted.

"When we have members of those committees that received tens of millions of dollars in grants at the same time that they are advising this agency on rulemaking, that is not good," Pruitt said. His directive is prudent, and it is the type of common-sense safeguard that citizens expect in a self-governed republic.

In contrast, the resistance of the EPA's bureaucracy and its apologists shows arrogant contempt for the citizen. Board member and chair of BOSC, Deborah Swackhamer, seemingly unfazed by these relationships, labeled Pruitt's directive as "clearly political" and suggested it is an attempt to effectively stack the committees with members who disagree with her (although she didn't put it quite that way).

What's really going on at EPA is the swamp draining that needs to happen across the federal bureaucracy. It is a death-fight (meant figuratively) for bureaucrats intent at reshaping society according to their world-view. To do so, they need to maintain an appearance that scientific consensus supports their views.

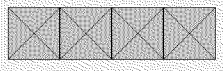
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But, as Pruitt commented, the focus at EPA should be "sound science, not political science." His approach should be emulated by the other agencies.

To Read The Full Op-Ed Click Here

Emmett McGroarty and Erin Tuttle work for American Principles Project. They are co-authors of the forthcoming book "Deconstructing the Administrative State: The Fight for Liberty."

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 7/7/2017 9:00:03 PM
Subject: EPA's Weekly Round-Up For 07/07/17

The EPA's Weekly Round-Up ...

Between speaking with Alabama farmers with Senator Strange about WOTUS, to touring a farm in Georgia with Secretary Perdue to announcing grants to clean-up brownfield sites, it's was another winning week at the EPA.

TO THE STATES …

In Alabama, WFSA-TV reports that Pruitt and Senator Strange spoke with farmers about repealing WOTUS. "Farmers from all over the state came together in Bibb County Thursday as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency was on hand to speak about the Water of the United States rule. Head of the EPA Scott Pruitt, along with Sen. Luther Strange came to Alabama today."

Click Here To Watch The Video

- **Additionally, Pruitt and Strange were on Birmingham's Real Talk to talk about the EPA.**

In Iowa, the Des Moines Register reports that the EPA's proposed Renewable Fuel Standard reflects demand for 2018. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released new mandates Wednesday for the amount of renewable fuel that must be blended into the nation's fuel supply. The agency said the proposed Renewable Fuel Standard 'reflects demand for 2018.' It kept the total amount of conventional ethanol that must be blended into the nation's fuel supply at 15 billion gallons."

In Oklahoma, the Tulsa Beacon reports that Pruitt is helping President Trump to make our government more efficient. "The Environmental Protection Agency, headed by Scott Pruitt, is making good on President Trump's campaign promise to make government more efficient. Last week, Pruitt signed the repeal of the Clean Water Rule and moved to amend the regulations defining "waters of the United States" or WOTUS. … U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Oklahoma, senior member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, praised the announcement that it will replace the Obama administration's WOTUS rule, which granted the federal government sweeping authority to regulate virtually all waters or wet areas throughout the country."

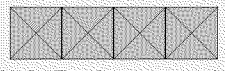
In Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports that the EPA is cleaning up brownfield sites across the state. "Four organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania have received $1.8 million in federal funds to assess brownfield sites where pollutants, including hazardous substances, have either been identified or are believed to exist. … The grants are reserved for areas that are 'economically disadvantaged and include places where environmental cleanup and new jobs are most needed,' Scott Pruitt, EPA administrator, said in a news release announcing the awards."

In Texas, the High Plains Journal reports that the EPA is funding part of Texas' pesticide programs. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded $585,730 to the Texas

Department of Agriculture to support a wide range of pesticide programs, including enforcement and outreach efforts. ‘At EPA, we are protecting the environment by engaging our state partners,’ said Administrator Scott Pruitt. … ‘Pesticides play an important role in growing and sustaining our nation’s food supply,’ said Acting Regional Administrator Sam Coleman.”

TWEETS ...

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 7/7/2017 8:41:11 PM
Subject: Pruitt and Perdue Promote Sustainability in The South

Pruitt and Perdue Promote Sustainability in The South

Trump Administration Cabinet Members Visit Rural Georgia Tree Farm, Speak to Students

COCHRAN, GA (July, 7, 2017) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue visited the Gully Branch Tree Farm in rural Georgia. The visit focused on the benefits of EPA's partnership with local organizations in rural America to promote environmental stewardship among school-aged children, especially those living in agricultural communities.

Gully Branch Tree Farm has been used as one of Georgia's premier outdoor classrooms since 1994. More than 800 students visit Gully Branch each year as part of forestry education field trips rooted in the American Forest Foundation's Project Learning Tree environmental education program. The farm was named the "2008 Georgia Tree Farm of the Year".

After touring the farm, the two cabinet officials delivered remarks to local farmers and foresters, educators, 4H students and members of Future Farmers of America.

"As Secretary Perdue and I visited Gully Branch today, it reaffirmed that there are no better stewards of the land than folks like Earl and Wanda Barrs. Farmers and foresters care deeply about their greatest asset, the land," Administrator Pruitt said. **"The American people once again have a voice, and EPA is listening and ready to work together, creating optimism across the country."**

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Sat 6/24/2017 10:34:04 AM
Subject: Cheney and Pruitt draw attention to $850k EPA grant for Wyoming water protection

THE CASPER STAR TRIBUNE

Cheney and Pruitt draw attention to $850k EPA grant for Wyoming water protection

The Casper Star Tribune
Heather Richards
June 24, 2017
http://bit.ly/2t5hpOM

Wyoming will receive nearly a million federal dollars to address water pollution, an award praised by U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

The $850 million grant will be used for seven state projects that include stream restoration and the reduction of pollutants like selenium in rivers to lakes. That type of pollution occurs from runoff, when rain and snowmelt carry contaminants from cities, bacteria or pesticides from ranches and pollutants from mines and drilling activities down to Wyoming's waterways.

Cheney praised Wyoming regulators for their work in a statement Friday.

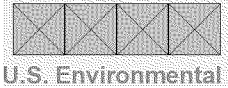
"Wyoming's waters are a precious natural resource that have tremendous impact on our local economy and every facet of our way of life," Cheney said in a statement Friday. "The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality deserves to be recognized for crafting effective, efficient and actionable watershed plans worthy of this funding that will help to improve the quality of our impaired waters today and for generations to come." ...

Trump appointee Pruitt said the grant reinforces the idea that states are the best managers of environmental standards.

"Providing funds directly to Wyoming is an excellent example of EPA partnering with states to help address their unique and critical environmental challenges," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement. "EPA is making investments like this grant to help empower states who know best how to protect resources, and grow their economy while solving real environmental problems in local communities."

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 11/30/2017 3:00:14 PM
Subject: EPA Finalizes RFS Volumes for 2018 and Biomass Based Diesel Volumes for 2019

EPA Finalizes RFS Volumes for 2018 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volumes for 2019

WASHINGTON – (November 30, 2017) Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule that establishes the required renewable fuel volumes under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) program for 2018, and biomass-based diesel for 2019.

"Maintaining the renewable fuel standard at current levels ensures stability in the marketplace and follows through with my commitment to meet the statutory deadlines and lead the Agency by upholding the rule of law," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set the RFS volume requirements annually and to finalize the standards by November 30th for the following year.

The final standards for 2018, and for biomass-based diesel for 2019, are only slightly changed from the proposed standards that EPA issued earlier this year.

Final Volume Requirements

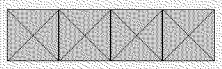
		2018	2019
Cellulosic biofuel (million gallons)	288	n/a	
Biomass-based diesel (billion gallons)	2.1	2.1	
Advanced biofuel (billion gallons)	4.29	n/a	
Renewable fuel (billion gallons)	19.29	n/a	

The RFS program was created under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and expanded by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. EPA implements the program in consultation with U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy. The RFS program is a national policy that requires a certain volume of renewable fuel to replace or reduce the quantity of petroleum-based transportation fuel, heating oil or jet fuel.

For more information on today's announcement, go to:

https://www.epa.gov/renewable-fuel-standard-program/2017-announcements-renewable-fuel-standard

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 8/2/2017 10:58:39 PM
Subject: EPA CONTINUES TO WORK WITH STATES ON 2015 OZONE DESIGNATIONS

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

EPA CONTINUES TO WORK WITH STATES ON 2015 OZONE DESIGNATIONS

EPA continues to work with states on technical issues, disputed designations and insufficient information

(WASHINGTON) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is moving forward with 2015 ozone designations, working with states to help areas with underlying technical issues, disputed designations, and/or insufficient information. This will help ensure that more Americans are living and working in areas that meet national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS).

"We believe in dialogue with, and being responsive to, our state partners. Today's action reinforces our commitment to working with the states through the complex designation process," said **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.**

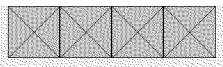
The Clean Air Act gives EPA the flexibility to allow one additional year for sufficient information to support ozone designations. EPA may take future action to use its delay authority and all other authority legally available to the Agency to ensure that its designations are founded on sound policy and the best available information.

Earlier this summer, it was evident that the Agency would not meet the October 1 deadline to designate all areas, due to underlying complexities, methodological, and informational questions with regard to this new ozone NAAQS standard. For example, the question of whether or not this ozone NAAQS was set so low as to implicate natural "background" ozone levels in some parts of the country has repeatedly been raised.

In June, EPA issued a Federal Register notice announcing that it was delaying its deadline for designations by one year, from October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2018. Previous EPA administrations had repeatedly invoked this statutory power to delay designations for part or all of the country. Today's announcement replaces our earlier action that delayed the Agency's designation deadline on a nationwide basis and clarifies our path forward, so that the Agency can be more responsive to local needs.

"Under previous Administrations, EPA would often fail to meet designation deadlines, and then wait to be sued by activist groups and others, agreeing in a settlement to set schedules for designation," said **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.** "We do not believe in regulation through litigation, and we take deadlines seriously. We also take the statute and the authority it gives us seriously."

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 9/6/2017 10:47:26 PM
Subject: EPA/TCEQ HARVEY UPDATE: AIR QUALITY IMPROVING, MORE WATER SYSTEMS OPERATIONAL

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA/TCEQ HARVEY UPDATE: AIR QUALITY IMPROVING, MORE WATER SYSTEMS OPERATIONAL

Dallas (September 6, 2017) - Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas. TCEQ has 500 people assisting in response to this natural disaster and EPA has 185.

EPA has begun mobilizing Community Liaisons to the designated disaster counties for Hurricane Harvey. The liaisons will assist the county emergency operation centers in disseminating pertinent information on post flood hazards to municipalities, school districts, and citizens. EPA has now been deployed to the FEMA JFO Joint Information Center in Austin and additional EPA response personnel are being assigned to Beaumont/Port Arthur. This area was previously inaccessible due to lack of facilities. EPA has begun coordination with environmental justice advocates from Texas and Louisiana to provide an update on the impacted areas. EPA has been closely coordinating with the U.S. Coast Guard on a large oil spill in the Houston area, and with city and county officials on a benzene plume identified near the Manchester neighborhood.

As of Sunday, Sept. 3, the following information is available:

Drinking Water: To date, about 2,800 drinking water systems are potentially affected by Harvey have been contacted. Of those: 1,920 systems are fully operational, 168 have boil-water notices, and 50 are shut down. Both EPA and the TCEQ are contacting remaining systems to gather updated information of their status. EPA and the TCEQ are working closely with the Texas National Guard, including the 6th Civil Support Team (supporting TCEQ in Corpus Christi), Arkansas National Guard, 61st Civil Support Team (supporting TCEQ in Houston), and the Texas State Guard Engineering Group, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor water systems. Assistance teams are in the field working directly with system operators to expedite getting systems back to operational status.

Waste Water and Sewage: Currently, 903 of approximately 1,219 wastewater treatment plants are fully operational and 34 are inoperable in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers are occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that have reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the Texas National Guard, including the 6th Civil Support Team (supporting TCEQ in Corpus Christi), Arkansas National Guard, 61st Civil Support Team (supporting TCEQ in Houston), and the Texas State Guard Engineering Group, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Assistance teams will be deployed to work directly with system operators to expedite getting systems back to operational status.

Flood Water: Water quality sampling will be focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. Floodwaters contain many hazards, including bacteria and other contaminants. Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding safety advisories. In addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

Critical Water Infrastructure: The agencies are continuing to work closely with dams. The larger dams are full in many cases and may be releasing water; the structures are secure at this time. There are 340 high- and significant-hazard dams in the impacted areas, and TCEQ has been able to make contact with 200 of these dam owners. Of these 200, only five dams have been damaged or have failed. We have also been notified that three low-hazard dams have damage. TCEQ is continuing to contact dams to get status updates.

Additional EPA/TCEQ updates include:

Superfund Sites: EPA and TCEQ continue to get updates about the status of specific sites from the parties responsible for ongoing cleanup of the sites. So far, TCEQ staff have assessed 12 of the 17 State Superfund sits in the affected areas. TCEQ anticipates completing the remaining 5 assessments by the end of the week depending on accessibility of those remaining sites.

EPA completed site assessments at 13 Superfund sites that have been flooded and/or experience possible damage to the storm. Of these sites, two (San Jacinto and U.S. Oil Recovery) require additional assessment efforts. Assessments of these sites will take several days to complete. The San Jacinto Waste Pits site has a temporary armored cap designed to prevent migration of hazardous material; some areas that rock been displaced and liner is exposed. The potential responsible party has mobilized heavy equipment and is placing rock on different places on the armored cap to repair the defensive surface. The liner is in place and functional so we don't have any indication that the underlying waste materials have been exposed. If we find a breach in the exposed liner, we direct the responsible party to collect samples to determine if any materials have been released. Crews continue to surveying portions of the cap that are submerged and the EPA dive teams will survey the cap underwater when conditions allow. EPA is making plans for longer-term assessments at 41 Superfund sites in the impacted areas as the projects return to their normal remedial cleanups.

Air Quality Monitoring: One of the many preparations for Hurricane Harvey included EPA, TCEQ, and other monitoring entities temporarily shutting down several air monitoring stations from the greater Houston, Corpus Christi, and Beaumont areas. Since then, state and local authorities have been working to get the systems up and running again. As of Tuesday September 5, TCEQ air monitoring network is 100 percent operational in Corpus Christi, 88 percent in Houston, and 71 percent in Beaumont. The network is expected to be fully operational again by next week. Of the available air monitoring data collected from Aug. 24-Sept. 2, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern. Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning, and residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm.

An assessment by EPA of the Valero Refinery on Monday, September 5, 2017, confirmed that a tank at the facility did have a leak which occurred on August 26, 2017 from the Hurricane Harvey storm and flooding. EPA also confirmed Valero had taken action to respond to and repair the leak.

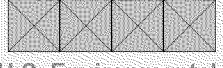
Based on current site conditions including weather, repair actions by Valero, and air monitoring results, EPA's assessment could not confirm the tank was the source of the air release that led to complaints in the area immediately after the storm. EPA's air monitoring performed onsite and around the facility on September 5 does not indicate levels of concern for the community. EPA will continue air monitoring for additional sources in the area.

Fires at Arkema Facility in Crosby: The TCEQ has an open investigation into the Arkema incident that will include an evaluation of any impacts due to the fires at the site. Additionally, after the final notifications are received, the TCEQ will evaluate the reported emissions events to determine compliance with applicable rules, permit provisions, and notification and reporting requirements. The TCEQ and Harris County Pollution Control are coordinating post-event monitoring, sampling, and complaint response activities. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board has initiated an investigation, and law enforcement continues to limit access to the Arkema plant in Crosby. For more information regarding Arkema, please visit https://www.tceq.texas.gov/news/statement/statement-on-arkema-investigation

Refineries/Fuel Waivers: In addition to gasoline waivers for 38 states and D.C. and diesel waivers for Texas, EPA signed three No Action Assurance letters on Sept. 1 to help address fuel shortages. NAA will help expedite the distribution of existing gasoline supplies to both Texas and Louisiana, while the refineries work to re-start and resume normal operations. The waivers and NAA letters are effective until Sept. 15 and should allow for the distribution in Texas of 10 million or more gallons of fuel to consumers. TCEQ is working with EPA to consider an extension to the gasoline waivers through October 1st.

For additional information please visit the TCEQ's hurricane response page.

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Mon 9/4/2017 10:26:20 PM
Subject: HOUSTON AREA SUPERFUND SITES OPENED TO NEWS OUTLETS TODAY

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

HOUSTON AREA SUPERFUND SITES OPENED TO NEWS OUTLETS TODAY;

TCEQ/EPA UPDATED LOCAL, NATIONAL LEADERS ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF HARVEY

DALLAS (September 4, 2017) – ABC, CBS, CNBC, CNN, & Bloomberg news crews joined TCEQ and EPA technical staff on site at Superfund sites around Houston today. The TV crews, following all health and safety requirements of site managers, shadowed the work of TCEQ and EPA technical experts on the ground at three Superfund sites: U.S. Oil Recovery, Highlands Acid Pits and the San Jacinto Waste Pits.

Crews were able to take videos, photographs and talk directly with technical staff and subject matter experts on the ground. Boats were on the water determining impacts at the temporary armored cap in the San Jacinto River, to provide access to the crews.

"The TCEQ is working closely with the EPA and local officials to assess the status of Superfund sites in the affected area. We will continue this as sites are safely accessible," said TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw.

“We are working directly with those responsible for the on-going cleanup of Superfund sites to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information about health and environmental risks to the community from the effects of hurricane Harvey, especially at Superfund sites affected by the storm,” said EPA Region 6 Acting Regional Administrator Sam Coleman.

In addition to taking news crews on site today, EPA Acting Regional Administrator Sam Coleman and TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw provided an update of their joint efforts to assess the health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey to a local, state and federal officials. The discussion with local officials included: Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Executive Director of the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Russ Poppe, Harris County Engineer and Director of Public Infrastructure John Blount and Dr. Umair Shah from the Harris County Public Health Department.

National participants included: officials and experts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Together, they provided updates to and answered questions from U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. House of Representative Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, U.S. Congressman Randy Weber and other government officials at the Harris County Emergency Operations Center in Houston.

Additionally, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and the city's leaders were briefed by EPA and TCEQ senior leadership on multiple issues, including the status of the Superfund sites in and around the Houston area.

As of Sunday, September 3rd, EPA staff was imbedded in Mayor Turner's office to provide continued communication among local, state and federal officials. EPA and TCEQ remain in constant communication with Governor Abbott's office.

In addition, TCEQ and EPA toxicologists and technical experts are on the ground and in the air collecting real-time air monitoring and water quality data. That information is being analyzed by experts now and will be provided to the public as soon as it is available. We encourage the community to continue to follow the expert safety advice of local officials

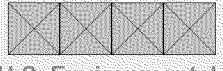
EPA Region 6 Acting Regional Administrator Sam Coleman updates the media on EPA response to Superfund sites affected by Hurricane Harvey

Briefing with local, state and national leaders in Houston

TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw meets with U.S. Senator John Cornyn at the Harris Co. Emergency Operations Center.

TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw and EPA Acting Regional Administrator for Region 6 Sam Coleman address the media at the San Jacinto Superfund site.

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Subject: EXAMINER: EPA needs to stick to its knitting

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER

EPA Needs To Stick To Its Knitting

Editorial
September 18, 2017
http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-needs-to-stick-to-its-knitting/article/2634483

Barack Obama decided that the 1992 Clean Air Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to force states to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

He also expanded the Clean Water Act with a regulation called "Waters of the United States," which aimed to give the EPA regulatory control over land if sometimes it holds standing water.

The running theme of the Obama EPA was expanding the agency's reach and multiplying its responsibilities. This campaign was repeatedly halted by courts, but it has threatened to erode liberty and make life more expensive for families, farmers, and companies.

But the most tangible consequence of the EPA's mission creep has been the neglect of its core functions.

Trump's EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out Obama's legacy in a recent interview with the Washington Examiner. "He left us with more Superfund sites than when he came in," Pruitt said, referring to contaminated lands which the EPA is supposed to be remediating. "He had Gold King and Flint, Michigan," Pruitt went on, referring to the massive 2015 spill of mine waste into the Animas and San Juan Rivers. Obama also left "air quality standards 40 percent of the country in nonattainment," Pruitt added.

The problem? Obama's EPA wouldn't stick to its knitting. Pruitt aptly described the EPA's mindset under Obama: "We think we just ought to re-imagine authority because you know what? We don't know if people are going to pass regulations or states are going to do their jobs."

Pruitt promises to return the EPA to its proper mission and to limit its activities to those actually prescribed by Congress. Will Pruitt's EPA address greenhouse gas emissions? Obama justified his Clean Power Plan by asserting the urgency of the issue. But the executive's belief that an issue is important doesn't give the executive branch the power to address an issue.

The EPA has only the power Congress has given it. Repeatedly, Obama tried to get Congress to pass climate legislation. Repeatedly, he failed. This should have been taken as a sign that there is no democratic will for it. But Obama took these failures exactly the wrong way, deciding that if Congress won't act, he would act on his own.

This is like a soldier deciding that if his officers won't give him permission to shoot, he'll just have to give himself the order to fire.

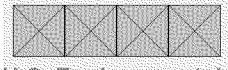
On climate, Pruitt says the relevant question is "what tools are in the toolbox of this agency to deal with CO2?" Neither Pruitt nor Trump are allowed to put tools in there. Only Congress can. "We're not going to simply just make up our authority," Pruitt said.

Doing exactly what you are called to do by the proper authorities is not a very exciting mission. But such is the lot of conservatism. Executive agencies are role-players, and even the president doesn't get to determine their role. The Constitution is very clear that Congress alone has that power.

We applaud Pruitt's mission of restoring the EPA to its proper shape and size. And we hope he has the humility, the diligence, and the skill to pull it off, for the sake of the Constitution, the economy, and the environment.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
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Sent: Thur 11/16/2017 3:00:08 PM
Subject: EPA Announces Appointment of Alexandra Dunn to Region 1 Administrator

EPA Announces Appointment of Alexandra Dunn to Region 1 Administrator

WASHINGTON (November 16, 2017) - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Alexandra Dapolito Dunn to become Regional Administrator for Region 1. With over two decades of experience in environmental law, legislation, policy, and regulatory affairs, Ms. Dunn will oversee federal environmental protection efforts in: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Alexandra Dunn currently serves as executive director and general counsel for the Environmental Council of States (ECOS), a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to helping state agencies improve environment outcomes for Americans. Since 2014, Ms. Dunn has helped state governments improve water infrastructure, air pollution control, site cleanup, chemical management, and economic development. Prior to joining ECOS, Ms. Dunn served as executive director and general counsel for the Association of Clean Water Administrators.

Ms. Dunn has also been published in the areas of the ethics of community advocacy, environmental justice, urban sustainability, water quality, cooperative federalism, and the Clean Water Act. And, she taught environmental justice and human rights and the environment as dean of Environmental Law Programs at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. She also taught at the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, where she currently serves as faculty adviser to the student Environmental Law Society. Ms. Dunn most recently taught environmental justice as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Law at the American University's Washington College of Law.

This October, Ms. Dunn was elected to the Board of Regents of the American College of Environmental Lawyers and she serves on the executive committee and board of directors of the Environmental Law Institute. She has chaired the American Bar Association's (ABA) section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, its World Justice Task Force, and served on the ABA Presidential Force on Sustainable Development.

"Alexandra Dunn is exceptionally qualified to carry out administrative duties to lead our New England office," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "Not only has she spent the last several years developing effective environmental policies for our state partners, but has also helped shape a number of aspiring environmental lawyers at one of the nation's leading environmental law programs. Her service to others will be key to helping implement this administration's positive environmental agenda for our northeast region."

Her nomination is receiving high accolades from across the region:

Janet Coit, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management: "As the head of a state environmental agency, I hoped for the appointment of an EPA regional administrator with expertise in environmental laws and issues and sensitivity to the importance of the special relationship between the states and the USEPA. Alex Dunn has mastery and understanding of both and tremendous relevant experience to bring to bear to her role as Regional Administrator. She is

an excellent choice and will bring a constructive and informed approach to New England, a place where there is strong federal-state partnership and a collaborative approach to our important environmental protection work with USEPA."

John Cruden, president, American College of Environmental Lawyers: "Alexandra Dunn is a superb administrator with exceptional environmental expertise. She can be counted on to push to advance the environment, work collaboratively with the States in her Region, and support career officials doing their important work."

Andrew Fisk, executive director, Connecticut River Conservancy: "Alexandra is a committed environmental attorney with a solid record of experience that will serve her well. She understands the important role of citizen organizations in improving the quality of our environment. We look forward to working with her to build on New England's proud tradition of environmental protection."

Scott Fulton, president, Environmental Law Institute: "I strongly support Alexandra Dunn's appointment as Regional Administrator for EPA Region 1. She is a terrific talent and an extremely capable leader, with demonstrated ability to work effectively with a diverse array of stakeholders and interests. Her appointment makes for a great day for EPA and the good people of New England."

Robert J. Klee, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: "I want to congratulate Alexandra on her nomination to become the next EPA Region 1 Administrator. She is a consensus builder who is well respected by many in the environmental community thanks to her extensive background and knowledge of environmental law and policy. I look forward to working with her in this new role on the issues that matter most to Connecticut residents, such as water quality in our lakes, rivers, and Long Island Sound, ozone and transport of pollutants from upwind to downwind regions, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is imperative that the federal government and states work together to address our most pressing environmental issues - and I have full confidence that Alex will continue to build upon decades of positive interactions between EPA Region 1 and our New England States."

Amanda C. Leiter, professor, American University Washington College of Law: "I am thrilled to learn of Ms. Dunn's appointment. For the past few years, she has taught environmental justice as an adjunct professor in American University Washington College of Law's summer program. Students gave the course very positive reviews and regularly commented on Professor Dunn's depth of knowledge about the subject area and her willingness to make herself available outside of class hours. My colleagues and I will be sorry to lose her from AU, but we are very pleased she will be bringing her extensive background in and deep commitment to environmental justice to EPA Region 1."

Paul Mercer, Commissioner, Maine Department of Environmental Protection: "Alexandra Dapolito Dunn has a demonstrated ability to work as a partner and facilitator for the States. She also has the breadth and depth of knowledge of the environmental issues faced by the Region 1 States. We look forward to working with Alexandra to continue progress making our water and air cleaner through practical and cost-effective strategies."

Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources: "The partnership between EPA and state environmental agencies is incredibly important. Through her work at ECOS, Alexandra has been committed to building and strengthening this relationship and I look forward to her continued support in this new capacity."

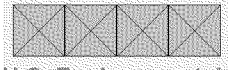
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services: "Alexandra is a great choice for Regional Administrator. She has vast experience in working on environmental issues and well understands the needs and perspective of the states. She helped

champion the recasting of the EPA-State relationship through Cooperative Federalism at the **Environmental Council of the States and now will be in a position to advance those principles even further."**

Susan Sullivan, executive director, New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission: "Ms. Dunn is a consummate professional and her years of working on behalf of the states at the Environmental Council of the States and the Association of Clean Water Administrators will serve her well in her new role. NEIWPCC, our member states, and EPA have had a long history of working well together. I look forward to continuing this strong relationship with Ms. Dunn and her Region 1 staff."

Martin Suuberg, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection: "Alex Dunn has significant experience in environmental law and has been a strong environmental advocate for states during her years of service with ECOS. The Commonwealth looks forward to continuing our work with her in this new role as Region 1 Administrator."

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Subject: Terminix Companies Sentenced for Applying Restricted-Use Pesticide to Residencies in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Terminix Companies Sentenced for Applying Restricted-Use Pesticide to Residences in the U.S. Virignin Islands

WASHINGTON (November 20, 2017) - Terminix International Company LP (TERMINIX LP) and U.S. Virgin Islands operation Terminix International USVI LLC (TERMINIX, USVI) were sentenced today for violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act in the U.S. Virgin Islands, announced the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Virgin Islands pest control company illegally applied fumigants containing methyl bromide in multiple residential locations in the U.S. Virgin Islands, including the condominium resort complex in St. John where a family of four fell seriously ill in March 2015 after the unit below them was fumigated. According to the plea recommendation, TERMINIX LP and TERMINIX, USVI are to pay a total of $10 million in criminal fines, community service, and restitution payments. Under the agreed recommendation, TERMINIX, USVI will pay $4 million in fines and $1 million in restitution to the EPA for response and clean-up costs at the St. John resort. TERMINIX LP will pay a fine of $4 million and will perform community service related to training commercial pesticide applicators in fumigation practices and a separate health services training program.

“The sentences in this case reflect the serious nature of the defendants’ illegal actions and the unacceptable consequences of those actions,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “This case should serve as a stark reminder that pesticides must be applied as intended and that those who ignore laws that protect public health will be held accountable by EPA and our law enforcement partners.”

“The tragic incident at issue in this case shows the extreme danger posed by the improper use of toxic pesticides,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey H. Wood of the Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division. “Businesses using these products must take appropriate cautions to safeguard the public, or else the consequences can be devastating. We trust that the result in this case shows how imperative it is that users of these products take the time to review, understand, and employ appropriate techniques and uses.”

“This case demonstrates how critical it is to comply with environmental laws and regulations,” said Acting United States Attorney Joycelyn Hewlett for the District of the Virgin Islands. “An entire family suffered horrendous and life-altering injuries. We will continue to aggressively enforce environmental laws to help prevent something like this from ever happening again.”

In 1984, the EPA banned the indoor use of methyl bromide products. The few remaining uses are severely restricted and largely limited to commodity applications for quarantine and pre-shipment purposes. Pesticides containing methyl bromide in the U.S. are restricted-use due to their acute toxicity, meaning that they may only be applied by a certified applicator. Health effects of acute exposure to methyl bromide are serious and include central nervous system and respiratory system damage. Pesticides can be very toxic and it is critically important that they be used only as approved by EPA.

According to the information filed in federal court in the U.S. District Court of the Virgin Islands, the defendants knowingly applied restricted-use fumigants at the Sirenusa resort in St. John for the purpose of exterminating household pests on or about October 20, 2014, and on or about March 18, 2015. The companies were also charged with applying the restricted-use pesticide in 12 residential units in St. Croix and one additional unit in St. Thomas between September 2012 and February 2015.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, TERMINIX, USVI provided pest control services in the Virgin Islands including fumigation treatments for Powder Post Beetles, a common problem in the islands. These fumigation treatments were referred to as “tape and seal” jobs, meaning that the affected area was to be sealed off from the rest of the structure with plastic sheeting and tape prior to the introduction of the fumigant. Customers were generally told that after a treatment, persons could not enter the building for a two- to three-day period.

On or about March 18, 2015, two employees of TERMINIX, USVI, performed a fumigation pesticide treatment at the lower rental unit of Building J at Sirenusa in St. John. The upper unit in Building J was occupied by a Delaware family of four. Via various means, methyl bromide from the lower unit migrated to the upper unit of Building J, causing serious injury to and hospitalization of the entire family.

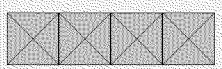
EPA regional staff responded immediately to the incident in St. John, securing the scene, performing testing, and addressing the contamination. Within days, the EPA sent out a pesticide use warning to pesticides applicators in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, followed by a broader pesticide notice to regulators in all states, the British Virgin Islands, and to other Caribbean and Latin American countries.

After the government began its investigation, TERMINIX LP voluntarily ceased its use of methyl bromide in the U.S. and in U.S. territories. The government has notified the district court that the defendants have made full restitution to the Esmond family. The family is satisfied with the criminal resolution and has asked that their privacy be respected.

The case was investigated by EPA Criminal Investigation Division working cooperatively with the Virgins Islands government and, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Senior Litigation Counsel Howard P. Stewart of the Department of Justice, Environmental Crimes Section, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim L. Chisholm of the District of the Virgin Islands are prosecuting the case with assistance of Patricia Hick, EPA Region II Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
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Subject: WTAS: About The EPA'S Decision To Delay Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Standards

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ...

About The EPA'S Decision To Delay Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Standards

Leaders Across The Country ...

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell applauded Administrator Pruitt's decision, calling the standards an attack on middle-class families from the Obama Administration. "I applaud Administrator Scott Pruitt for his decision to delay this Obama Administration issued regulation, which was finalized in October 2015. This regulation was yet another attack on the Middle Class by the Obama Administration and was forced through despite significant concern from communities across the country. Today's postponement will give states and municipalities relief in the interim while EPA continues to review NAAQS levels." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

West Virginia Senator Shelley Moore Capito said state and local employers had insufficient time to comply with these standards. "State and local governments and employers across the country have had insufficient time to comply with the latest revisions to the ozone standards. I commend Administrator Pruitt and his staff at the EPA for acknowledging this reality and acting today to delay existing standards." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

Arizona Senator Jeff Flake said the EPA is working with Arizonans to protect the environment, instead of the previous administration's one-size-fits-all approach. "It's great to see the EPA working with Arizonans for a change. Nowhere are the flaws of previous administration's one-size-fits-all approach to regulating ozone more evident than in Arizona, a desert state where naturally-occurring ozone makes it impossible to meet the new federal mandate. While today's move buys Arizona much-needed time, I remain committed to advancing a solution that will provide permanent relief from this egregious and unworkable rule." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton praised Administrator Pruitt for pausing this costly and ineffective rule, which will help the economy in Texas. "I am grateful for the leadership of EPA Administrator Pruitt in courageously pausing the costly and ineffective Ozone Rule, and I'm hopeful that the one-year delay will provide time for the EPA to review the detrimental effects the Ozone Rule will have on the Texas economy." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

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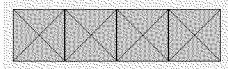
U.S. extends deadline for states to meet ozone pollution standard. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Tuesday it was extending the deadline by one year for states to declare which areas do not meet the federal standard for ground-level ozone, a pollutant linked to several

serious health conditions." (Reuters, 06/06/17)

EPA's Pruitt delays Obama-era smog rules for a year. "The Environmental Protection Agency announced Tuesday that it is giving states another year to meet strict rules for smog-forming ozone emissions set by the Obama administration, citing states' confusion over regulatory requirements and the need for the EPA to review the regulations. … Pruitt also announced that he is establishing the Ozone Cooperative Compliance Task Force to develop the "additional flexibilities for states to comply with the ozone standard," the agency said. Congress gave EPA the authority to create the task force under the recently passed fiscal 2017 spending bill." (The Washington Examiner, 06/06/17)

Trump Delays One Of The Most Expensive EPA Regulations Ever. "The Trump administration announced Tuesday evening it would delay the implementation of a smog rule that's been called one of the costliest clean air regulations ever." (The Daily Caller, 06/07/17)

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 8/2/2017 8:09:21 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: Pruitt Continues State Action Tour in Indiana

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

PHOTOS: Pruitt Continues State Action Tour in Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (August 2, 2017) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt continued his state action tour in Indiana today, his sixth state in three weeks.

"The agriculture industry should not be burdened with unnecessary government overreach," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.** "By beginning the process to redefine WOTUS, we are prioritizing clean water across the country, while also respecting states' traditional regulatory role over their own waters and providing much-needed certainty to farmers and landowners."

While in the Hoosier state, Administrator Pruitt met with Governor Eric Holcomb, Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, and other state officials to discuss EPA's recent decision to begin the process of redefining the definition of a "Water of the United States" (WOTUS). EPA is reassessing the proper scope of federal jurisdiction so as to provide stakeholders with regulatory certainty. Following their meeting, Administrator Pruitt and Governor Holcomb hosted a roundtable discussion on WOTUS at Mike Starkey Farms in Boonville, Ind.

"It's an honor to welcome Administrator Pruitt to Indiana once again and to connect him with members of our agriculture community," **Governor Eric Holcomb said**. "They have experienced firsthand the ways that unduly burdensome federal regulations can hinder farmers' financial security and growth. I am encouraged by and greatly appreciate this federal administration's willingness to listen and partner with the states to find solutions."

"As Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, I am extraordinarily proud of Indiana agriculture's history as a leader in conservation," said **Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch**. "The Indiana agricultural community looks forward to participating in the re-creation of this important initiative under the leadership of Administrator Pruitt and his team."

After touring Mike Starkey Farms, Administrator Pruitt visited Liberty Mine, Brownsburg, Ind. to discuss methods to improve environmental conditions, while also safeguarding critical coal mining jobs.

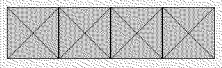
EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt meets with Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, Indiana Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, and other state officials.

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb (left) and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt with Mike Starkey (right) and Jeff Starkey (second from left).

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt greets employees at Liberty Mine.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is shown mining site at Liberty Mine.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Sun 9/3/2017 4:19:21 PM
Subject: EPA Response To The AP's Misleading Story

Good afternoon –

Yesterday, the Associated Press' Michael Biesecker wrote an **incredibly misleading story** about toxic land sites that are under water.

Despite reporting from the comfort of Washington, Biesecker had the audacity to imply that agencies aren't being responsive to the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey. Not only is this inaccurate, but it creates panic and politicizes the hard work of first responders who are actually in the affected area.

Here's the truth: through aerial imaging, EPA has already conducted initial assessments at **41** Superfund sites – **28** of those sites show no damage, and **13** have experienced flooding. This was left out of the original story, along with the fact that EPA and state agencies worked with responsible parties to secure Superfund sites before the hurricane hit. Leaving out this critical information is misleading.

Administrator Pruitt already visited Southeast Texas and is in constant contact with local, state and county officials. And EPA, has a team of experts imbedded with other local, state and federal authorities, on the ground responding to Harvey - none of which Biesecker included in his story.

Unfortunately, the **Associated Press' Michael Biesecker** has a history of letting the facts get in the way of his story. Earlier this summer, he made-up a meeting that Administrator Pruitt had, and then deliberately discarded information that refuted his inaccurate story – ultimately prompting a nation-wide correction. Additionally, the Oklahoman took him to task for sensationalized reporting.

- Correction: EPA-Dow Chemical story
- Associated Press Engulfed in CNN-Level Scandal as It Covers Up Invention of Imaginary Pruitt Meeting

If you're reporting on this misleading story then below is a statement from the EPA.

"Once again, in an attempt to mislead Americans, the Associated Press is cherry-picking facts, as EPA is monitoring Superfund sites around Houston and we have a team of experts on the ground working with our state and local counterparts responding to Hurricane Harvey. Anything to the contrary is yellow journalism." - EPA Associate Administrator, Liz Bowman

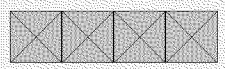
BACKGROUND ...

The Hill reports EPA finds 13 Superfund sites possibly damaged after Harvey. "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said Saturday that 13 Superfund sites have been flooded or could be facing damage as a result of Hurricane Harvey. The agency said that two of the sites, which are areas that are polluted with hazardous material and require extensive cleanup, had been

inspected and do not require immediate cleanup. Eleven sites have proven to be inaccessible for response teams, however the agency said teams are in place to inspect the areas once flooding from the storm subsides. In total, the EPA said that it had conducted initial assessments at 41 Superfund sites in impacted areas using 'aerial images' and contact with with those responsible for regular cleanup activities." (The Hill, 09/02/17)

In June, the editorial board at the Oklahoman reminded their readers of the sensationalized reporting that comes from the Associated Press' Michael Biesecker. "The disdain that some in the media have for President Trump and members of his administration is evident regularly. Recent coverage related to EPA administrator Scott Pruitt provides an example of interest to locals because of Pruitt's Oklahoma ties. … An Associated Press story from Washington last week about emails Pruitt sent and received as attorney general did what it could to further establish Pruitt as a minion for the oil and gas industry — which environmentalists see as dead set on ruining the earth as we know it. The AP, a wire service used by media outlets around the world including The Oklahoman, said the emails 'underscore just how closely' Pruitt 'coordinated with fossil fuel companies' as Oklahoma's AG, 'a position in which he frequently sued to block federal efforts to curb planet-warming carbon emissions.' That's quite an opening paragraph. Pruitt didn't just work with energy companies while attorney general — he worked 'closely' with 'fossil fuel companies' (the ultimate bogey men) to essentially keep global warming from abating. … The fact Pruitt regularly corresponded and dealt with energy industry officials as attorney general of a state where energy is the No. 1 industry should not be surprising nor should it, by itself, be considered nefarious."

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Mon 7/24/2017 5:27:16 PM
Subject: Star Tribune: EPA's Pruitt signals welcome support for Great Lakes restoration project

The Minneapolis Star-Tribune

EPA's Pruitt Signals Welcome Support for Great Lakes Restoration Project

Editorial
July 21, 2017
http://www.startribune.com/epa-s-pruitt-signals-welcome-support-for-great-lakes-restoration-project/435922323/

Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Scott Pruitt's visit to Minnesota last week yielded an unexpected boon for those who care about clean water. In an interview with a Star Tribune reporter, Pruitt affirmed his support for federal funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which provides landmark protections for Lakes Huron, Erie, Michigan, Ontario and, most treasured by Minnesotans, Superior.

The work that went into creating the multistate compact was years in the making, uniting governors and legislators of both parties in an unprecedented and legally binding pledge to preserve the interconnected freshwaters that touch the borders of eight states and Canada.

Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty signed the compact for Minnesota in 2007, and DFL Gov. Mark Dayton continued the work. Republican President George W. Bush made it federal law, with bipartisan support in Congress, and Democratic President Barack Obama committed the necessary federal funding.

It's fitting that the EPA recognize and support the work and goals of those state and U.S. leaders. Pruitt, who made a mission out of suing the EPA in his home state of Oklahoma, was expected to come in as something of an anti-EPA warrior. And some of his actions have given cause for concern, including planned agency layoffs, rejection of climate change and rollbacks on some regulations.

But there also are glimmers of recognition that states face daunting environmental problems that cannot be wished away. The Great Lakes compact is significant in large measure because states from here to Pennsylvania set aside partisan differences, found common ground and committed to long-term, mutual cooperation.

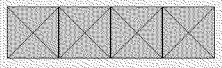
A U.S. House appropriations committee also has recognized the compact's worth. It voted for a budget that, while unfortunately trimming overall EPA funding, would preserve the $300 million for the Great Lakes. Pruitt's support for the compact is especially notable because the Trump administration's budget would have essentially zeroed out funding for the project.

Pruitt, who met with Dayton while he was here, is touring other states. Let's hope he'll gain an even greater appreciation for the environmental challenges ahead. Interestingly, he has said that upon arriving in Washington he found a "lack of urgency" at the agency on fighting major pollution. He said

40 percent of Americans live in areas that fail to meet air quality standards, a percentage he calls “unacceptable.”

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 6/27/2017 9:58:06 PM
Subject: WTAS: Leaders Praise The Trump Administration's Move To Rescind WOTUS

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Elected Leaders Praise The Trump Administration's Move To Rescind WOTUS

WASHINGTON – With the EPA moving to rescind WOTUS, leaders from across the country are praising this decision.

WHAT GOVERNORS ARE SAYING …

Governor Sam Brownback (KS): "The Clean Water Rule was another example of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. trying to run Kansas farms and ranches. Our state is a leader in water innovation, and Kansans have come together through community-led water preservation efforts spurred by our 50-year Water Vision. Our farmers and ranchers know best how to steward their water. We appreciate that President Trump and the EPA will now let our farmers farm and ranchers ranch." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Governor Doug Burgum (ND): "Clean water is critical to quality of life and our economy, and no one cares more about clean water in North Dakota than the people who live here. Today's action is a welcome step toward a rule recognizing that states are best positioned to protect, manage and regulate their own waters. The Obama administration's WOTUS rule was a particularly egregious example of regulatory overreach that effectively classified almost every pond, pothole and slough as a federal managed waterway, creating confusion and uncertainty for farmers, ranchers, landowners and local governments. We are encouraged that the EPA and Corps of Engineers have been reaching out to governors early in this renewed rulemaking process, and we hope such consultation will continue and culminate in a rule that respects states' authority and unique role in protecting their water resources. We are grateful to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for his leadership on this issue." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Governor Eric Greitens (MO): "When we took office, we asked our farmers and ranchers what we could do to fight for them. One of the things we heard is that they needed our help to push back against Obama's Waters of the US regulations. Well, we took that message to Washington D.C. and the good news is they've heard us. They've heard that Obama's Waters of the US regulations are hurting family farmers." (Facebook, 06/27/17)

Governor Kim Reynolds (IA): "Waters of the United States was a significant and severe case of government overreach by the Obama administration. I want to thank Secretary Pruitt for recognizing that WOTUS forced onerous and unnecessary burdens on Iowa's farmers and businesses. I also want to express my appreciation to the Trump administration for its continuing commitment to work with states, not against them." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Governor Pete Ricketts (NE): "Thank you to President Trump and Administrator Pruitt for delivering on your promise to roll back this job-killing regulation. This policy returns federal oversight of intra-state waterways to pre-2015 standards, respects the rights of private land owners and states, and provides for ample protection of clean water. Removing this threat to our state's top industries gives Nebraska the freedom to grow more opportunities for the next generation in the areas of agriculture and manufacturing." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

WHAT SENATORS ARE SAYING …

Senate Ag Chairman Pat Roberts: "I'm pleased Administrator Pruitt and the EPA has listened to our concerns and has taken an important first step to rescind the infamous WOTUS rule. For too long, this rule has burdened not only farmers and ranchers, but landowners of all sizes, across the country. With a rewrite of the WOTUS rule, I look forward to seeing a rule that recognizes and respects the environmental strides taken by the American farmer and rancher. I'm grateful to have an EPA that listens to and addresses the concerns of rural America, a vital segment of our economy and true stewards of our natural resources." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Joni Ernst (IA): "I am pleased that the Trump administration is taking another important step toward eliminating this burdensome WOTUS rule. In Iowa, 97 percent of the land is subject to extensive overregulation by the EPA and unnecessarily hamstrings our farmers, businesses and manufacturers. All across Iowa, folks are calling for this rule to be scrapped, which is why I have led efforts in the Senate to do just that. This is good news for Iowa and rural communities across the country as we move closer to finally eliminating this overreaching rule." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Deb Fischer (NE): "Today's announcement from the administration signals another important step toward full removal of the harmful WOTUS rule. All Nebraskans would have been affected by the far-reaching consequences of this misguided policy. I will continue to monitor the WOTUS withdrawal process to help ensure we see common-sense rulemaking that puts Nebraskans in charge of the decisions involving our state's water resources." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Chuck Grassley (IA): "This is great news for accountability in government. This was a bad regulation drafted under a bad process. The EPA over-reached its authority and ignored and manipulated legitimate concerns raised by the public. Farmers, land owners and builders in Iowa struggled to make sense of the regulation. Having the federal EPA and the Corps of Engineers require permits for routine land use decisions is a waste of resources that are better used enforcing existing regulations against discharging pollutants into the nation's waterways. Agencies ought to enforce the laws as Congress intended, not stretch beyond their authority to inflict unnecessary expense and red tape on law-abiding farmers and employers." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Dean Heller (NV): "Given that the Nevada is the driest state in the nation, water is a precious resource to Nevadans. Whether it's Marlow from Ruby Valley or Darryl from Yerington, Nevadans around the state have told me that they fear the WOTUS rule provides federal agencies with almost unlimited authority to regulate their farms and ranches at their own discretion. … I applaud the EPA for taking additional steps to repeal the WOTUS rule, which has burdened rural Nevadans and stifled job creation in Nevada." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

Senator Steve Daines (MT): "Today marks the beginning of restoring private property rights while protecting our environment. Out of state D.C. bureaucrats shouldn't impose regulations that hurt Montana farmers, ranchers and landowners." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

WHAT REPRESENTATIVES ARE SAYING …

Speaker of the U.S. House, Paul Ryan: "The West has finally won in the battle over the Obama administration's WOTUS rule. This regulation would have been a disaster for the West and rural communities across the country, giving Washington near-total control over water resources. The livelihoods of American farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs were at stake. I applaud the Trump administration for siding with American jobs and rescinding this harmful rule." (Twitter, 06/27/17)

House Ag Chairman K. Michael Conaway (TX): "WOTUS has never been about clean water, it was about feeding the Obama EPA's insatiable appetite for power. Well that ends now. Today's EPA announcement is an important first step to getting the federal government out of America's backyards, fields and ditches and restoring certainty and integrity to our regulatory process. But our work isn't done. As the case of California farmer John Duarte clearly highlights, the Corps and DOJ also need to re-evaluate and revise their enforcement of the Clean Water Act and WOTUS to ensure we protect our farmers and ranchers from onerous fines and penalties that threaten their way of life. I have confidence this administration will get the policy right and allow farmers and ranchers to be the capable stewards of the land they've always been." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S Rep. Liz Cheney (WY): "The Clean Water Rule was a power grab by the Obama Administration that attempted to expand federal control and regulations well beyond the initial scope of Waters of the U.S. The rule threatened the loss of precious resources for hardworking ranchers and farmers in Wyoming, and if left unchecked, would have devastated our rural economy. I am pleased to see EPA Administrator Pruitt and the Army Corps of Engineers taking these steps to return power to the states and provide them with regulatory certainty. I also remain committed to working in Congress towards a full repeal of burdensome regulations imposed by the previous administration." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Doug Collins (GA): "Northeast Georgia farmers, ranchers, and small businesses are natural conservationists who have been overburdened by the illogical Waters of the United States regulation. I applaud the Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency for their move to repeal the WOTUS rule in favor of statutes that actually serve our communities and steward their natural resources wisely." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs (OH): "I applaud Administrator Pruitt's announcement to withdraw the Obama-era Waters of the United States rule, which expanded federal authority at the expense of the states and eroded private property rights. The EPA should not treat farmers, ranchers, homebuilders, local governments, or state environmental agencies as adversaries but rather collaborators in drafting a new WOTUS rule. American farmers who feed the world are among those most concerned with protecting our environment. The next WOTUS rule should take their opinions and concerns into account and I look forward to working with Administrator Pruitt to craft a reasonable rule that protects the environment and private property rights at the same time." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX): Washington bureaucrats in cubicles should not be deciding the fate of our waterways, nor should they be allowed to completely and arbitrarily control the economic fate of landowners even to the point of ending their ability to make a living. Unelected bureaucrats have, for years, been enviously dreaming of the day they could control American landowners' property by the backdoor methods of completely controlling everything involving water on or near the land. Repealing the Obama Administration's WOTUS Rule is essential in getting the federal government out of everyday farming operations. It is neither right nor fair to subject producers and landowners to jurisdictional protocols and extraordinary levels of compliance charges. Today the EPA took a giant step forward in safeguarding the water rights of hard-working Americans and ending the federal power grab the Obama Administration engineered. It is a victory for those who love liberty and

something called private property." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Mike Johnson (LA): "The so called 'WOTUS Rule' was a gross overreach by the Obama Administration and put mud puddles and backyard ditches under government control. Farmers and every day Americans all across the country have been subjected to new, burdensome regulations that kill jobs and further hinder the economy. Removing this rule will restore common sense to water regulation and return power back to the states and to the people." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO): "The previous administration used the vague language in the WOTUS Rule to harm local communities—including ranchers, farmers, small business owners. I am grateful that this new ruling will establish regulatory certainty and restore order to state and tribal water laws that should have jurisdiction over these bodies of water. I look forward to a revision of this rule that will empower local landowners instead of giving power solely to the federal government." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA): "WOTUS is one of the most burdensome EPA rules of the Obama Administration. You think about the impact it's had on rural communities, on our cattlemen and farmers— it's making it more and more difficult for hardworking Americans to be successful. It's something I've heard about frequently in Eastern Washington. Thank you to President Trump and his administration for taking action to ensure this rule no longer targets our rural communities." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

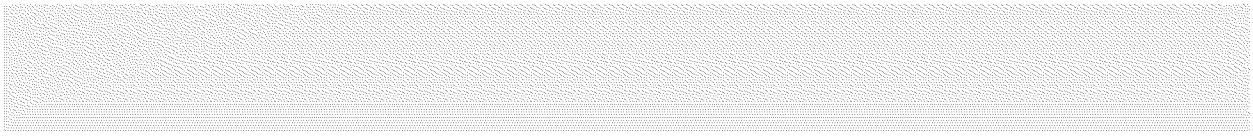
U.S. Rep. Martha McSally (AZ): "WOTUS is a sweeping regulation written by unelected bureaucrats that would give the EPA jurisdiction over any type of body of water on private land—lakes, ponds, creeks, and even desert washes. I have heard from countless small businesses, farmers, and ranchers that this rule prevents them from doing their job, which is why I led dozens of my colleagues in Congress in writing to the Administration in February urging the President to reverse this rule for the sake of Southern Arizona and communities throughout the United States. I am pleased with the EPA's decision to repeal the harmful WOTUS rule—and I know that Americans across the country are relieved by this news." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S Rep. Kristi Noem (SD): "Under the Obama-era WOTUS rule, treating your lawn for mosquitos, putting up a fence in your backyard or spraying your crops could become federally regulated activities that carry substantial fines if violations occur – knowingly or unknowingly. The Trump administration is right to propose a repeal." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton (CO): "This announcement from Administrator Pruitt is welcome news. State law and priority-based systems have ensured clean, safe, and reliable water supplies for over a century in Colorado and the West. The WOTUS rule would have usurped long-held state water law and threatened access to private water rights. Western water users will now have much needed certainty while the EPA re-writes the definition of 'Waters of the United States." (Press Release, 06/27/17)

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 7/19/2017 7:42:00 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: EPA Administrator Pruitt Continues State Action Tour in Minnesota

PHOTOS: EPA Administrator Pruitt Continues State Action Tour in Minnesota

ST. PAUL, Minn. – (July 19, 2017) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt continued his state action tour in Minnesota on Wednesday, visiting with Governor Mark Dayton and John Stine, commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and president of the Environmental Council of States, a key EPA partner in protecting the environment and public health.

Following these meetings in the state capitol, Administrator Pruitt convened a roundtable with agricultural stakeholders at the Minnesota AgriGrowth Council where he discussed the agency's decision to re-evaluate the 2015 "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule and seek to provide regulatory certainty for Minnesota farmers and land owners. In Minnesota, the agriculture industry provides more than 340,000 jobs.

"The 2015 WOTUS rule created regulatory uncertainty and threatened economic growth," **said Administrator Pruitt**. "By re-visiting this rule, we are helping ensure waters are kept clean, without unnecessarily harming jobs or the economy. I am grateful for the oppertunity to sit down with Governor Dayton and find way EPA and Minnesota can work together to protect our natural resources."

"We're pleased Administrator Pruitt has traveled to Minnesota to hear directly from Minnesota farmers and agribusiness leaders regarding their concerns over the 2015 WOTUS rule," **Minnesota AgriGrowth Executive Director Perry Aasness stated. "**AgriGrowth supports EPA's decision to re-evaluate the WOTUS rule, and is encouraged that Adminstrator Pruitt is committed to working with Minnesota and U.S. agriculture as the agency moves forward with its re-evaluation and any future modifications to WOTUS."

During his time in the Twin Cities on Wednesday, Administrator Pruitt spoke with CBS Minnesota about his state action tour.

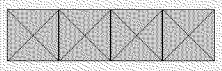
Watch the interview here

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton

U.S. EPA Administrator talks with WCCO radio

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Mon 10/16/2017 9:26:00 PM
Subject: Trump's EPA Curbs "Sue-And-Settle" Practice

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ...

Trump's EPA Curtails "Sue-And-Settle" Practice

BLOOMBERG: "The Trump administration moved Monday to curb settlements with conservationists and industry, instead vowing to fight cases designed to force the Environmental Protection Agency to take action. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said he is ending a 'sue-and-settle' practice that has resulted in closed-door agreements committing the agency to regulating greenhouse gas emissions or mercury pollution from power plants. 'It's very important that we do not engage in rulemaking through litigation,' Pruitt told reporters at a briefing Monday. As of today, with this directive and the memorandum, we're no longer going to be involved in that practice.'" (Bloomberg, 10/16/17)

TALKING POINTS MEMO: "Pruitt pledged that the agency would no longer reimburse attorneys' fees in cases where it decides to avoid a lawsuit, arguing that both environmental and business groups had abused it to enrich themselves in the past. 'This is not particular to one type of plaintiff,' he said. 'There should be no attorneys' fees paid, period, no matter who the plaintiff is.'" (Talking Points Memo, 10/16/17)

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER: "President Barack Obama's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took a lot of heat from rural America for working with environmental groups that sued the federal government on various aspects of environmental law. Otherwise known as sue and settle, environmental groups and others have made a cottage industry out of suing and forcing EPA to settle. The agency has taken heat for making so-called backroom deals with those groups, often leading to changes in environmental laws. On Monday, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced an agency-wide directive to end the practice." (The Progressive Farmer, 10/16/17)

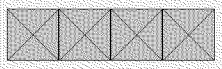
THE WASHINGTON POST: "Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a directive on Monday to limit the extent to which EPA can reach legal agreements with groups suing to force it to take regulatory action. Ending the practice known as 'sue and settle' has long been a top priority for conservatives and business groups. In recent years, especially under the Obama administration, the EPA and other agencies resolved litigation over delays in issuing rules by agreeing to specific timelines to act and reimbursing plaintiffs' attorney fees." (The Washington Post, 10/16/17)

FOX NEWS: "Republicans, including Pruitt, had fought with the Obama administration in court over what they described as a back-room practice that led to more red tape. They claimed the EPA routinely entered into consent decrees with environmental groups that had sued the agency, in turn leading to new regulations for states – covering clean air rules and more – without allowing them to defend their interests." (Fox News, 10/16/17)

THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: "The Environmental Protection Agency on Monday became the first of President Trump's agencies to issue an order barring the agency from being drawn into court

settlements that alter environmental outcomes to the liking of environmental and other special interest groups." (The Washington Examiner, 10/16/17)

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 7/5/2017 7:35:01 PM
Subject: EPA Proposes RFS Volumes Reflective of Market Realities for 2018

EPA Proposes RFS Volumes Reflective of Market Realities for 2018
Starting Technical Analysis to Inform Future Reset Rules

WASHINGTON – (July 5, 2017) Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed a proposed rule setting the minimum amount of renewable fuels that must be supplied to the market in calendar year 2018 under the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program. Today's action proposes volume requirements and associated percentage standards that maintain renewable fuel volumes at levels comparable to the 2017 standards, recognizing limits to the growth of cellulosic and advanced biofuels.

EPA is committed to successfully administering the RFS consistent with the direction entrusted to the Agency by Congress and is on track to meet the November 30th statutory deadline to make today's proposed Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) final. The proposed volumes are based on requirements under the law and an analysis of current market dynamics, including energy demand, biofuel production, and market constraints. The proposed standards will help stabilize the renewable fuels program and provide certainty for stakeholders.

"Increased fuel security is an important component of the path toward American energy dominance," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. **"We are proposing new volumes consistent with market realities focused on actual production and consumer demand while being cognizant of the challenges that exist in bringing advanced biofuels into the marketplace. Timely implementation provides certainty to American refiners, the agriculture community and broader fuels industry, all of which play an important role in the RFS program."**

Some key elements of today's action:

- Non-advanced or "conventional" renewable fuel volumes are maintained at the **15-billion gallon** target set by Congress.
- The biomass-based diesel standard for 2019 would be maintained at the 2018 levels of **2.1 billion gallons.**
- EPA is beginning technical analysis that will inform a future rule to reset the statutory volumes for cellulosic, advanced, and total biofuels. The law requires this reset when certain conditions are met.

EPA is also taking comment on addressing concerns that some RFS obligations are increasingly met with imported fuel from Brazil, Argentina and Indonesia. Additionally, the Agency is assessing higher levels of ethanol-free gasoline and bolstering an existing memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to analyze and address a host of market concerns, including the need for increased transparency.

"The Clean Air Act requires EPA to reset volume targets when certain conditions are met. We expect those conditions to be met in the near future, so we are conducting technical analysis

now, to inform future reset rules," said Administrator Pruitt.

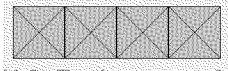
Proposed and Final Renewable Fuel Volume Requirements for 2014-2019

	2017	Proposed 2018	Proposed 2019
Cellulosic biofuel (million gallons):	311	238	n/a
Biomass-based diesel (billion gallons):	2.0	2.1*	2.1
Advanced biofuel (billion gallons):	4.28	4.24	n/a
Renewable fuel (billion gallons):	19.28	19.24	n/a

*Biomass-based diesel standard is final for 2018.

For more information on today's announcement, go to: https://www.epa.gov/renewable-fuel-standard-program/2017-announcements-renewable-fuel-standard

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Sent: Thur 6/22/2017 7:10:00 PM
Subject: EPA Marks Chemical Safety Milestone on 1st Anniversary of Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act

EPA Marks Chemical Safety Milestone on 1st Anniversary of Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act

Agency Meeting Statutory Responsibilities and Deadlines

WASHINGTON – (June 22, 2017) Today, on the one-year anniversary of the *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act*, Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that EPA has met its first-year statutory responsibilities under the law. This includes issuing three new rules, providing a guidance document for external parties, and releasing the scoping documents for the first 10 risk evaluations that will be conducted.

"The activities we are announcing today demonstrate this Administration's commitment to providing regulatory certainty to American businesses, while protecting human health and the environment," said Administrator Pruitt. **"The new process for evaluating existing chemicals outlined in these rules will increase public confidence in chemical safety without stifling innovation."**

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signs new TSCA rules surrounded by staff from EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

The *Act* amends the nation's primary chemicals management law known as the *Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)*. The legislation received bipartisan support in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, and provides significant new responsibilities and authorities to EPA to advance chemical safety.

EPA has completed the following implementation activities at this one-year anniversary:

- Finalized a rule to establish EPA's process and criteria for identifying high priority chemicals for risk evaluation and low priority chemicals for which risk evaluation is not needed. In response to public comments, this final rule affirms EPA's commitment to following the best available science, engaging stakeholders in the prioritization process, and recognizing the value of designating chemicals as low priority when appropriate. Read more: http://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/prioritizing-existing-chemicals-risk-evaluation

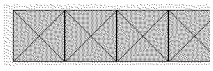
- Finalized a rule to establish EPA's process for evaluating high priority chemicals to determine whether or not they present an unreasonable risk to health or the environment. In response to public comments, this final rule clearly defines important scientific terms to ensure transparency and confidence in the risk evaluation process while retaining flexibility to allow for new scientific approaches to be incorporated as they are developed. Additionally, the final rule clarifies EPA's authority to determine what uses of a chemical are appropriate for risk evaluation, ensuring that the Agency's resources are focused on those uses that may pose the greatest risk. Read more: https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-evaluations-chemicals-under-tsca

- **Finalized a rule to require industry reporting of chemicals manufactured or processed in the U.S. over the past 10 years. This reporting will be used to identify which chemical substances on the TSCA Inventory are active in U.S. commerce and will help inform the chemicals EPA prioritizes for risk evaluation. In response to public comments, EPA streamlined the reporting requirements for manufacturers and processors in the final rule to help reduce regulatory burden. Read more: https://www.epa.gov/tsca-inventory/tsca-inventory-notification-active-inactive-rule**

- **Released scope documents for the initial ten chemicals for risk evaluation under the amended law. These documents identify what uses of the chemicals will be evaluated and how the evaluation will be conducted. Read more: https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-evaluations-chemicals-under-tsca#ten**

- **Released guidance for external parties interested in submitting draft risk evaluations to the EPA for consideration. Read more: https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/guidance-assist-interested-persons-developing-and**

This past year has been marked by many EPA accomplishments to implement the amended law. More information on EPA's progress to date and a full list of all the TSCA implementation activities can be found here*:* https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/frank-r-lautenberg-chemical-safety-21st-century-act-5



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Subject: STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY HARVEY

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

STATUS OF WATER SYSTEMS IN AREAS AFFECTED BY HARVEY

WASHINGTON (September 3, 2017) – Working together, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) continue to coordinate with local, state and federal officials to address the human health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath, especially the water systems in the affected areas. As of Saturday, September 2nd, 2017, the following information is available:

- **Drinking Water:** Half (2300) of the 4500 drinking water systems potentially affected by Harvey have been contacted. Of those: 1514 systems are fully operational, 166 have boil-water notices, and 50 are shut down. The agencies are contacting remaining systems to gather updated information of their status. Assistance Teams are in the field working directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status. Additional drinking water assessments should be up and running within the next day.

- **Waste Water and Sewage:** Currently, 1656 of approximately 2469 wastewater treatment plants are fully operational in the affected counties. The agencies are aware that releases of wastewater from sanitary sewers that is occurring, due to the historic flooding and are actively working to monitor facilities that have reported spills, conduct outreach and provide technical guidance to all other wastewater facilities in flood-impacted areas. EPA and TCEQ are working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Texas Military Department, and other local and state agencies to continuously monitor wastewater systems. Houston's unified command will be up and running shortly to support water testing. Assistance Teams will be deployed to work directly with system operators to expedite bringing systems back to operational status.

- **Residential Wells:** EPA is developing a plan for sampling residential wells, and is coordinating with TCEQ to establish several locations where residents can bring water samples from their wells to be tested.

- **Flood Water:** Water quality sampling will be focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. Floodwaters contain many hazards, including bacteria and other contaminants. Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding safety advisories. In addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

Additional EPA/TCEQ updates include:

- **Superfund Sites:** EPA and TCEQ continue to get updates about the status of specific sites from the parties responsible for ongoing cleanup of the sites. The most recent information can be found here.

- **Air Quality Monitoring:** One of the many preparations for Hurricane Harvey included EPA, TCEQ, and other monitoring entities temporarily removing approximately 75 percent of the stationary air monitoring equipment from the greater Houston, Corpus Christi, and Beaumont areas. Since then, state and local authorities are working to get the systems up and running again. As of Saturday, September 2, over 70 percent of the monitors are up and working again; and authorities expect that the network will be fully operational again by next week. Of the available air monitoring data collected from August 24-September 2, 2017, all measured concentrations were well below levels of health concern. Monitors are showing that air quality at this time is not concerning and local residents should not be concerned about air quality issues related to the effects of the storm.

- **Fires at Arkema Facility in Crosby, Texas:** EPA and TCEQ are coordinating closely with Harris County Officials along with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other local public safety officials. As a result of initial chemical fires while the facility was flooded, EPA has collected downstream surface water runoff samples at four locations outside the evacuation zone, near residential areas. EPA and TCEQ will maintain a 24 hour watch and maintain a 24-hour presence at the incident command operations center near this facility, to support local emergency personnel on the ground. The 1.5 mile radius evacuation zone remains in effect until local emergency response authorities announce it is safe.

- **Refineries/Fuel Waivers:** In addition to waivers for 38 states and D.C., EPA signed four No Action Assurance (NAA) letters on September 1, to help address fuel shortages. NAA will help expedite the distribution of existing gasoline supplies to both Texas and Louisiana, while the refineries work to re-start and resume normal operations. Each is effective until September 15, 2017, and should allow for the distribution in Texas of 10 million or more gallons of gasoline to consumers.

For additional information from TCEQ, please visit: https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/hurricanes

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Subject: ICYMI: Administrator Scott Pruitt Discusses EPA Response to Hurricane Harvey

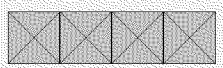
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...

Administrator Scott Pruitt Discusses EPA Response to Hurricane Harvey

WASHINGTON - Earlier today, Administrator Scott Pruitt called into The Chad Hasty Show on KFYO in Lubbock, Texas to discuss EPA's response to Hurricane Harvey in affected areas.

Click Here To Listen To Scott Pruitt On The Chad Hasty Show

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Subject: WIDESPREAD PRAISE FOR MATT LEOPOLD

WIDESPREAD PRAISE FOR MATT LEOPOLD

Leopold Nominated as EPA General Counsel

WASHINGTON (September 2, 2017) Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate Matt Leopold to serve as general counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Leopold previously served as general counsel for Florida Department of Environmental Protection from March 2013 to February 2015 and as an attorney for the United States Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division from January 2007 to February 2013. He is currently of counsel for Carlton Fields Jorden Burt, P.A. focusing on environment, energy, water law, and litigation.

His nomination is receiving high accolades from environmental leaders across the country:

Marco Rubio, United States senator: "Matt Leopold's experience and knowledge will serve EPA well, and I'm glad the president nominated a Floridian who understands the importance of our state's vast ecosystems to our economy and residents' quality of life."

Pam Bondi, attorney general of Florida: "Matt Leopold was a great asset to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and I look forward to him working together with my friend Scott Pruitt."

Adam Putnam, Florida commissioner of agriculture: "I'm thrilled to see another Floridian joining President Trump's Administration. After eight years of increased regulations and fees under President Obama, with little to nothing to show for it, I'm grateful for folks like Matt Leopold, who bring a wealth of expertise and experience to Washington, as well as a common sense approach to protecting our environment, while enabling our economy to grow and thrive."

John Cruden, president-elect of the American College of Environmental Lawyers and Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice (12/2014-1/2017): "Matt Leopold was a valued colleague of mine at the Department of Justice. He is committed to the rule of law and can be counted on to give sound and candid advice to EPA decision makers."

Eric Draper, executive director, Florida Audubon: "He has a good legal mind, strong leadership skills and knows how to work with different interests to bring resolution to complicated issues. During Mr. Leopold's tenure at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, I worked closely with the department on resolution of Everglades water quality issues necessary to settle federal litigation. Being directly involved, I saw that the state was successful in negotiating with USEPA a plan that allowed agreement on, and eventual legislative approval of, a plan called 'Restoration Strategies' to create remedies to meet Everglades water quality criterion."

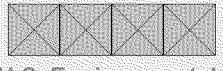
Eric Eikenberg, chief executive officer, The Everglades Foundation: "Few attorneys in America are as familiar with the legal issues – and importance – of Everglades restoration as is Matt Leopold,

and I heartily applaud his nomination to be the next general counsel of EPA. Our paths have crossed often in the 12 years since I first met Matt. I respect him as an attorney and a person of integrity. He understands the importance of America's Everglades and the critical need for restoration. Matt will serve Florida and our nation well, and I look forward to working with him and EPA to ensure America's Everglades are protected and restored."

Ethan Shenkman, EPA deputy general counsel (05/2014-01/2016) and DOJ deputy assistant attorney general, Environment and Natural Resources Division (03/2010-05/2014): "During the Obama Administration, I served in the DOJ environmental division and then at EPA. During that time, I had the opportunity to work closely with Matt Leopold on a number of environmental issues, where we crafted creative and responsible legal solutions to protect the environment, especially relating to the State of Florida where Matt served as general counsel of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to his legal acumen and broad knowledge of environmental law, I believe Matt's previous experience as a well-respected career attorney at ENRD will serve him well should he be confirmed, and will enable him to foster a productive working relationship with the talented and dedicated career staff in EPA's legal shop."

Herschel Vinyard, co-chair, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council; secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (01/2011-12/2014): "The first thing that the nation will learn about Matt Leopold is his unassailable integrity. The second thing the nation will learn about Matt Leopold is his unwavering commitment to following the law. I have seen firsthand how he brings those two key traits to the table, applies common sense and arrives at the ideal solution to complex problems. Kudos to the Trump Administration and Administrator Pruitt for making this selection."

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WIDESPREAD PRAISE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS FOR DAVID ROSS

Ross Nominated to Head EPA Office of Water

WASHINGTON (September 2, 2017) - President Donald J. Trump announced yesterday his intent to nominate David Ross to serve as assistant administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water. Mr. Ross currently serves as Wisconsin assistant attorney general and director of the Environmental Protection Unit for the Wisconsin Department of Justice. As Wisconsin assistant attorney general, he is responsible for managing the environmental litigation unit which prosecutes violations of state environmental and natural resources laws and defends administrative decisions and rules issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Ross previously served in the Wyoming Attorney General's Office from 2014-2016 as senior assistant attorney general and as a member of the Water and Natural Resources Division.

His nomination is receiving high accolades from environmental leaders across the country:

David Freudenthal, former governor of Wyoming: "Dave Ross is first and foremost an excellent, pragmatic lawyer. His private practice experience in DC combined with his service in two state environmental protection agencies make him uniquely qualified to implement America's nuanced structure of federal and state environmental protection."

Misael Cabrera, director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality:"Mr. Ross has exceptional credentials and experience for the role of Water Director. In addition, his views on cooperative federalism are exactly what is needed at US EPA."

Carol Comer, director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources: "The Missouri Department of Natural Resources would welcome the opportunity to work with Dave on our critical water issues. He has valuable experience with complex, multi-state policy decisions, and he understands the infrastructure challenges and needs of states like Missouri that have a significant number of small communities."

David Glatt, chief, North Dakota Department of Health, Environmental Health Section: "Mr. Ross exhibits an excellent understanding of western water issues and challenges faced by rural states and tribal nations. His knowledge and work experience coupled with his willingness to pursue a renewed approach to cooperative federalism make him an excellent candidate for the position."

Elliott Laws, Crowell and Moring LLP, former assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Solid Waste (Clinton): "I know David Ross to be smart, innovative and practical in all of his professional dealings. I fully expect him to bring those qualities with him to the Office of Water."

Todd Parfitt, director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality: "Mr. Ross possesses the necessary tools to effectively and appropriately oversee EPA's Water program in a fair, balanced and practical way. He has demonstrated his ability to objectively analyze and consider inputs from all

points of view and formulate a fair and reasoned approach resulting in clear and concise decisions."

Steve Quarles, attorney at Nossaman LLP, former deputy under secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior (Carter): "I have worked with Dave for many years as law firm partners. Dave's greatest skill may be leading people with diverse views and interests to common ground. People with such diverse views and interests naturally gravitate to Dave and look to him for leadership. This happens because Dave is highly intelligent, both in mastering issues and devising innovative solutions, and is an excellent listener, encouraging all to participate. He also has exhibited masterful administrative skills – from leading informal cohorts of private attorneys through complex decision making to managing high performing public offices."

Gary Rikard, director, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality: "I believe Dave Ross would be an excellent addition to EPA's Office of Water. His experience and real world view in working for two different states would enhance this administration's goal of improving cooperative federalism and building relationships between EPA and the states in administering environmental regulations and policy. That perspective, along with his environmental experience and legal background, will be an asset for the Agency."

Matthias Sayer, deputy cabinet secretary, New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resource Department: "We out west are beyond satisfied with the appointment of Mr. Ross as the assistant administrator for Water. Mr. Ross has a full understanding of those statutes aimed at protecting our water, coupled with a full understanding of how those statutes can and do impact state and local communities. Furthermore, through his boots on the ground experience, Mr. Ross has gained an appreciation for the important role states play, both in the east and dryer west, in protecting our water, and he understands that it is by working in cooperation with the states that the greatest degree of success in this important program will be achieved."

John Tippetts, director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality: "I just recently spoke with David for the first time, but I find him to be a person with significant relative experience, a keen intellect, and a good grasp of the appropriate interplay between states and the federal government as it relates to environmental regulation and enforcement. Additionally, he comes highly recommend to me by others who have worked closely with him. They assure me that he is an excellent choice to serve as assistant administrator for water in the EPA organization.

"More specifically, I can say that I have been impressed with David's candor and with his understanding of the need for EPA to work more cooperatively with the states. He recognizes that states often have a better understanding of how to address environmental issues within their borders than does the federal government, and I am confident we could work collaboratively to improve the positive outcomes we all desire."

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Subject: EPA PREPARES FOR HURRICANE IRMA

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA PREPARES FOR HURRICANE IRMA

Regions 2 and 4 Taking Precautions, Activating Emergency Response Teams

WASHINGTON – EPA's organized, emergency response program is preparing for Hurricane Irma, while continuing response efforts around the devastating flooding effects of Hurricane Harvey. Irma, expected to hit Southern Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, is expected to be a fast-moving storm, with dangerous winds that could cause widespread power outages and damage to property across multiple states and territories of the U.S. While Harvey has been unique in its extreme flooding, Irma's high winds could result in downed powerlines, complicating the ability to pump water through drinking and waste water systems, especially in Puerto Rico.

"After seeing the expert preparedness and ongoing response efforts of our team in Region 6, I am confident that Region 4 and Region 2 can replicate their efforts, as we work together to provide the needed support to local, state and federal agencies around Hurricane Irma," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.**

EPA headquarters emergency operations center, EPA Region 2 and EPA Region 4 are monitoring the storm closely and making preparations to activate in order to support the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and state environmental agencies, to quickly provide support to people affected by the storm.

EPA's Regional office in Atlanta is taking precautions, including: reviewing inventory of, and understanding all sites of interest, in particular Superfund sites in Southern Florida. Initial assessment has approximately 22 current or former National Priorities List (NPL) sites within Florida's southernmost 100 miles. Region 4 is taking necessary actions to shore up these sites appropriately, work with parties responsible for their ongoing cleanups, and ensure that staff in the area are safe.

The Region is also reviewing information about drinking and waste water systems in the potentially affected areas, so that personnel in the field can be best prepared to quickly respond, post storm. EPA staff have been deployed to FEMA's Regional Response Coordination Center, as well as the State of Florida Emergency Operations Center. Region 4 also has additional staff standing by, ready to support state and federal partners if called upon.

With regard to the Mississippi phosphates Superfund site, located in Pascagoula, Mississippi, EPA is taking necessary actions to ensure the treatment plant remains operational during the storm. EPA assumed oversight of the site in February.

"We have been reaching out to all our regional and state agency contacts and I have extreme confidence in our emergency response managers," said **EPA Regional Administrator of Region 4 Trey Glenn.** "As always we stand with our states and FEMA, ready to identify at-risk locations prior

to the hurricane, and will be ready to assess damage quickly after landfall." Region 4 serves: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and six Tribes.

EPA has identified and conducted initial assessments at approximately 23 Superfund and oil sites in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. In advance of Irma, Region 2 has reached out to all the responsible entities, whether they be our contractors for fund-lead projects or PRPs, for NPL sites, active removal actions and oil response actions, with regard to preparing for the storm. Region 2 serves: New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight tribal nations.

"Our biggest health and environmental concerns in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are potential oil spills and the potential impacts of power disruptions on water supply systems," said **Acting Regional Administrator Catherine McCabe.** "Region 2 is working with managers of Superfund sites and other facilities that may contain oil or hazardous materials to ensure appropriate precautions have been taken to prevent spills. We are doing our best to prepare and support our citizens in Puerto Rico."

Region 2 is coordinating with other federal agencies, like FEMA and the U.S. Coast Guard, and local governments in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. EPA has staff set up at the regional response center in Edison, N.J. and the FEMA response center in Colts Neck, N.J. The Region is ready to deploy additional assets to the islands.

As an Agency, EPA supports hurricane preparedness and response in a number of ways, including:

- **Addressing Fuel Shortages:** The Clean Air Act allows EPA Administrator Pruitt, in consultation with Energy Secretary Perry, to waive certain fuel requirements to address shortages that occur as a result of the storm. If Administrator Pruitt determines that extreme and unusual fuel supply circumstances exist in a state or region as a result of a hurricane, a temporary waiver can help ensure an adequate supply of gasoline is available in the affected area, particularly for emergency vehicles. EPA has an experienced team standing by to expedite handling of any fuel waiver requests by the states or commonwealth.

- **Monitoring Public Water Systems:** Water systems can be severely impacted during hurricanes due to storm surge, flooding, or loss of power from extreme winds. EPA has a tracking system to identify systems in the storm's pathway. Following the storm, and if the state requests federal assistance, EPA conducts damage assessments of both drinking water and wastewater systems to identify impacts to critical assets and assist in the recovery.

- **Securing Superfund Sites:** EPA assesses conditions at the NPL Superfund sites in the storm's pathway and tasks each Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) remedial site manager to assess conditions and make on-site preparations for high winds and potentially heavy rainfall. Following the storm and receding floodwaters, EPA conducts rapid assessments to identify damage at sites and initiate cleanup plans if necessary. Any on-site activities at sites located in the storm's path are ceased until the all clear is given and on-site equipment is secured. In addition, freeboard for lagoons or ponds is increased to accommodate forecasted rainfall if possible. After a hurricane makes landfall and any flooding recedes, the EPA remedial managers will conduct assessments of each Superfund NPL site to ensure no damage has occurred.

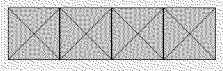
- **Assessing Conditions at Major Industrial Facilities:** EPA assesses conditions at the major industrial facilities in the storm's pathway to identify potential impacts and countermeasures. Following the storm and receding floodwaters, spills and releases are reported to the National

Response Center. NRC notifies the U.S. Coast Guard or EPA based on preapproved jurisdiction boundaries. EPA conducts follow up inspections and damage assessments in response to reports within EPA jurisdiction.

EPA will continue to work with Regions 2, 4 and 6 to address these hurricanes and will continue to provide information to the public as quickly as possible.

As EPA prepares to support FEMA and its local and state partners, it continues to focus its message on the importance of public safety.

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Subject: PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Visits Agriculture Leaders in Tennessee

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Visits Agriculture Leaders in Tennessee

NASHVILLE (October 23, 2017) – Today, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt brought his state action tour to Tennessee in an effort to continue meeting with key stakeholders surrounding the Agency's recent decision to begin the process of rescinding the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule.

Administrator Pruitt visited the State Capitol where he met with Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam and other state officials to discuss the Agency's regulatory agenda.

After their meeting, Administrator Pruitt attended a Tennessee Farm Bureau event at Eddie Sanders' Farm in Franklin where he met with Tennessee Farm Bureau President Jeff Aiken and addressed attendees. While delivering his remarks, Administrator Pruitt empathized the EPA's desire to meet with stakeholders who went largely ignored during the previous Administration's rulemaking process and emphasized the need to receive input from stakeholders such as farmers and landowners when making major rulemaking decisions."

"The Trump Administration has made it a priority to meet with stakeholders across the country who went largely ignored by the last Administration," said Administrator Pruitt. "EPA is looking to expand our rulemaking process to include all voices so we can make determinations that help the American people, not harm them. By beginning the process to rescind WOTUS, we are helping assert regulatory certainty and helping landowners and farmers."

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt meets with Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses members of the Tennessee Farm Bureau in Franklin.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 7:43:19 PM
Subject: EPA's Weekly Round-Up For 06/16/17

The EPA's Weekly Round-Up ...

Between G-7 meetings in Italy, testifying before Congress about President Trump's budget that protects the environment, putting the brakes on Obama's methane rule, responding to 386 of the 416 letters from Congress and cleaning-up brownfield sites across the country, it was a results-driven week at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

NATIONAL NEWS …

Administrator Pruitt was in Italy at the G-7 where he talked about the new priorities of the Trump Administration. "Respective of the importance to engage with longstanding allies and key international partners, we approached the climate discussions head on from a position of strength and clarity. We are resetting the dialogue to say Paris is not the only way forward to making progress. Today's action of reaching consensus makes clear that the Paris Agreement is not the only mechanism by which environmental stewardship can be demonstrated. It also demonstrates our commitment to honest conversations, which are the cornerstone of constructive international dialogue, " said Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Need to Know News reports that Scott Pruitt testified before the House of Representatives and said that the EPA is focused on the rule of law and cooperative federalism. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out his vision for his agency at a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Thursday, saying the EPA will focus on the rule of law and cooperative federalism. He expressed confidence that the EPA can accomplish these goals on a 'trimmed budget.' 'We're reversing an attitude and approach that one can simply reimagine authority under statutes passed by this body,' Pruitt said."

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The editorial board at the Wall Street Journal reports that unlike the Obama Administration, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is committed to cleaning up Superfunds sites. "One cost of making climate change a religion is that more immediate environmental problems have been ignored—not least by the Environmental Protection Agency. New EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt plans to address that in an underreported effort to clean up toxic waste sites under the so-called Superfund program. In a memo to EPA staff last month, Mr. Pruitt announced a plan to reform the Superfund program created in 1980 and to accelerate the clean up of hazardous waste sites such as old industrial properties or landfills. The effort is long overdue. Superfund has too often become a sinecure for the bureaucracy and a cash cow for lawyers. EPA staff offices can wait years or decades to assess a Superfund site, figure out who's liable for what, consult with the community, decide on a remedy and assign the actual work."

The Hill reports that the EPA has put the brakes on the Obama Administration's methane rule. "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed pausing an Obama administration oil

and gas pollution rule for two years while it reconsiders the regulation."

The Washington Free Beacon reports that the EPA has been incredibly responsive to requests from the Senate EPW Committee. "The Environmental Protection Agency has responded to half of a Senate oversight committee's information requests, undermining a top Democrat's claim that he is blocking nominees because the agency has not answered his letters."

The Washington Examiner reports that the EPA has been incredibly responsive to Congress and responded to 386 out of 416 letters sent to the agency. "The Environmental Protection Agency doesn't think the numbers add up on the complaints raised by Democratic Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware over unanswered letters. 'We've responded to 386 of the 416 letters received from Congress, including 11 of the 20 letters received from' Carper, the top Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox, citing EPA's latest tally conducted Tuesday."

The EPA released a new web video highlighting that our farmers are true environmentalists. **"**"Farmers are the true environmentalists…the stewards of the land' – Kim, on an American Agri-Women visit to EPA."

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TO THE STATES …

In Michigan, the Detroit News reports that Pruitt said that the closing of regional EPA offices is pure legend. "The administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that reports that its Great Lakes regional office in Chicago would permanently close are 'pure legend.' 'There is no consideration presently with respect to any regional offices about moving them to one location or another. I'm not sure where that came from,' Administrator Scott Pruitt told a House Appropriations subcommittee."

In Ohio, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reports that Pruitt wants to clean-up the Great Lakes. *"Pruitt told Joyce the EPA will acknowledge priorities that Congress had outlined in past legislation, and will work 'as partners and stakeholders' with states on environmental concerns. 'We recognize the importance of the Great Lakes,' said Pruitt. 'We will work with Congress to ensure that those objectives are attained.'"*

Additionally, the Plain Dealer reports that Pruitt reaffirmed the EPA's commitment to cleaning up the Black River in Lorain. "[Pruitt] assured [Rep. Kaptur] that budget cuts the agency requested would not affect existing contracts for cleanup along the Black River in Lorain."

In New York, the Buffalo News reports that Pruitt and the EPA are making progress at cleaning-up chemicals that are stockpiled at Tonawanda warehouse. "Seven months ago, state and federal authorities seized control of a Town of Tonawanda chemical supplier allegedly stockpiling thousands of tons of chemicals. Tuesday, the scene was safe enough for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to offer reporters a safety-vest and hard-hat behind-the-scenes peek of the cleanup."

In Kansas, the High Plains Journal reports that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council supports the nomination of Susan Bodine. "The National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council recently sent a letter to U.S. Sens. John Barrasso (R-WY) and Thomas Carper (D-DE) urging them to support the nomination of Susan Bodine to be the

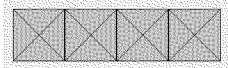
Environmental Protection Agency's assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. … 'Bodine has impeccable credentials with 29 years of environmental law and policy experience garnered from leadership positions in the federal government and private sector,' said NCBA President Craig Uden and PLC President David Eliason in the joint letter."

In Wisconsin, WBAY-TV reports that Pruitt and the EPA are cleaning-up Green Bay. "Green Bay's redevelopment efforts are getting a big boost with a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency."

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 8/1/2017 8:49:42 PM
Subject: WFB: Scientific Integrity Committee Clears Pruitt Against Sierra Club's 'Climate Denier' Charge

The Washington Free Beacon

Scientific Integrity Committee Clears Pruitt Against Sierra Club's 'Climate Denier' Charge

Scientific Integrity Committee Clears Pruitt Against Sierra Club's 'Climate Denier' Charge
August 1, 2017
Elizabeth Harrington
http://freebeacon.com/issues/scientific-integrity-committee-clears-pruitt-against-sierra-clubs-climate-denier-charge/

The Sierra Club has failed in its attempt to label Scott Pruitt a violator of the Environmental Protection Agency's Scientific Integrity Policy.

Pruitt is off the hook for expressing an opinion about global warming, as a scientific review panel ruled that it is within EPA policy to call for rigorous debate on the issue, according to a letter obtained by the Washington Free Beacon.

"The freedom to express one's opinion about science is fundamental to EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy even (and especially) when that point of view might be controversial," wrote Dr. Thomas Sinks, the director of the EPA's Office of the Science Advisor.

The Sierra Club filed a complaint to the inspector general against Pruitt in March, alleging Pruitt violated the Scientific Integrity Policy by saying during an interview that there is disagreement among scientists about whether CO2 is the primary driver of global warming.

The inspector general referred the allegation to Dr. Francesca Grifo, the EPA's Scientific Integrity Official, who then passed along the Sierra Club's complaint to the EPA Scientific Integrity Committee.

The committee cleared Pruitt of the charge, and, in fact, defended the EPA administrator for expressing his opinion and encouraging "vigorous debate."

"In his response, the Administrator expressed his opinion regarding contributions to global warming and called for more debate, review, and analysis as a precursor to any future EPA policy decision on the matter," the Scientific Integrity Review Panel said. "This expression of opinion, which was not made in a decisional context, is fully within the protections of EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy and does not violate that Policy. We also note that, in his remarks, the Administrator did not suppress or alter Agency scientific findings."

The EPA panel went further in refuting the Sierra Club's interpretation of the Scientific Integrity Policy. The liberal environmentalist group had branded Pruitt a "climate denier" in its complaint.

"Expressing an opinion about science is not a violation of the EPA Scientific Integrity Policy," the EPA panel said. "Indeed, the Scientific Integrity Policy—in the spirit of promoting vigorous debate and inquiry—specifically encourages employees to express their opinion should the employee disagree with scientific data, scientific interpretations, or scientific conclusions."

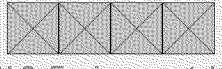
The Sierra Club did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The group's complaint was spurred by an interview Pruitt gave to CNBC, where he was asked, "Do you believe that it's been proven that carbon dioxide is the primary control knob for climate?"

Pruitt responded: "No. I think that measuring with precision human activity on the climate is something very challenging to do and there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact. So no, I would not agree that it's a primary contributor to the global warming that we see. But we don't know that yet… We need to continue the debate and continue the review and the analysis."

The letter was signed by Dr. Sinks, and sent to Elena Saxonhouse, a senior attorney for the Sierra Club, and Joanne Spalding, the group's chief climate counsel.

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 9/15/2017 8:05:00 PM
Subject: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Visits Houston To Review Hurricane Harvey Response Efforts

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Visits Houston To Review Hurricane Harvey Response Efforts

HOUSTON (September 15, 2017) – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt visited Houston, Texas, today to review the Agency's response efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

"EPA remains committed to providing the necessary resources and personnel to ensure those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Harvey receive proper Agency attention**," said Administrator Pruitt.** "We continue to work closely with our federal, state, and local partners to ensure Superfund are being properly secured, fuel prices remain stabilized, and infrastructure and environmental assessments are thoroughly carried out."

Administrator Pruitt began his visit to Texas by touring the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site and received a briefing from on-the-ground EPA response personnel. Administrator Pruitt was joined by Acting Regional Administrator for Region 6 Samuel Coleman, Chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Bryan Shaw, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials.

While Administrator Pruitt toured the site, an EPA dive team was conducting underwater inspections. EPA will continue to keep the public informed as assessments of the site continue and site determinations are made by the dive team.

Following his tour of the San Jacinto Superfund site, Administrator Pruitt received an aerial tour of additional affected Superfund sites in the region by the United States Coast Guard. Sites included: Patrick Bayou, U.S. Oil Recovery, San Jacinto River Waste Pits, Highlands Acid Pits, French Unlimited, Brio Refining, and Dixie Oil Processors.

EPA personnel will continue to monitor Superfund sites in Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey, compile data on regulated facilities, sample possible environmental contaminants, and conduct air monitoring of the affected areas.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt meets with Acting Regional Administrator for Region 6 Samuel Coleman (right) and other local leaders at the San Jacinto Superfund in Texas.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Acting Regional Administrator for Region 6 Samuel Coleman speak with Scott Jones of the Galvenston Bay Foundation and Jackie Young of the Texas Health and Environment Coalition.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on a Coast Guard aerial tour of regional Superfund sites.

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Subject: EPA Weekly Round-Up for 06/30/17

EPA's Weekly Round-Up ...

NATIONAL COVERAGE …

The Wall Street Journal first reported on Pruitt's move to walk-back WOTUS. Saying that it's "another sign the new administration and the EPA under administrator Scott Pruitt intend to prioritize the economic concerns of industry and agricultural interests over environmental concerns and, more broadly, to erase significant pieces of former President Barack Obama's legacy."

The National Review Editorial Board wrote that Pruitt is restoring order at EPA by correcting course on the Obama-Era WOTUS Regulation. "Scott Pruitt is not so much shaking things up at the EPA as restoring order, as with his decision to rescind the "Waters of the United States" rule — WOTUS, inevitably — which purported to expand the application of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and empower the federal government to regulate essentially any standing body of water and the lands adjacent to it. If you are wondering how bonkers the EPA was willing to be in its interpretation, consider that WOTUS would have applied to wet grass, if the grass had been wet enough."

Fox News reported that Pruitt's action on WOTUS ends a federal overreach on farmers and property owners. "The EPA and the Army Corps said dismantling the Obama rule would not change existing practices because the measure has been stayed by the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Cincinnati in response to opponents' lawsuits. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said the move showed "the West has won in the battle over the Obama administration's WOTUS rule. "This regulation would have been a disaster for rural communities in the West and across the country, giving Washington near-total control over water resources," Ryan added."

Additionally, Bloomberg BNA reported that repealing this water rule fulfills a major Trump campaign pledge. "The proposed repeal, once in final form, will be the first step the Trump administration takes in a two-step process to undo the 2015 Clean Water Rule, also known as the Waters of the U.S. rule (WOTUS). The second step, which Pruitt has said will be completed by as soon as the end of the year, will involve a rewrite of the 2015 regulation."

TO THE STATES …

In Georgia, the Gainesville Times reported that lawmakers and industry groups, including the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce, cheered Pruitt and the Trump Administration's action on WOTUS. "The Obama-era Waters of the United States regulation would have allowed federal oversight on a swath of private and state waters — from large wetlands down to ditches. The rule attracted intense opposition from Republican lawmakers and lawsuits from states, including a suit filed by then-Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt — now the head of the Environmental Protection Agency."

Farm groups in North Dakota were also proud of the Administrators action. The Duluth News Tribune reported that Daryl Lies, a Douglas, N.D., farmer and president of the North Dakota Farm Bureau, said the announcement "is a big deal and a great day for agriculture." They also wrote that, "WOTUS was unpopular with ag groups nationwide, but North Dakota ag producers were particularly critical of it. Sloughs, potholes and other small, often temporary bodies of water are common in the state, and North Dakota farmers worried about the impact of WOTUS."

In Wyoming, The Casper Star Tribune reported that the state would receive a grant to address water pollution. "Wyoming will receive nearly a million federal dollars to address water pollution, an award praised by U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The $850,000 grant will be used for seven state projects that include stream restoration and the reduction of pollutants like selenium in rivers to lakes. That type of pollution occurs from runoff, when rain and snow melt carry contaminants from cities, bacteria or pesticides from ranches and pollutants from mines and drilling activities down to Wyoming's waterways."

In Texas, the High Plains Journal praised an EPA Grant awarded to the Texas Department of Agriculture. "The grant funds a cooperative agreement between EPA and the state of Texas for the state to implement pesticide regulatory and enforcement programs. These programs include compliance monitoring, enforcement, certification and training for pesticide applicators, worker protection safety, and outreach and education."

In Florida, EPA awarded the Florida Department of Environmental Protection with a $1.38m grant. WWSB reported that, "The grant will be used to support many of Florida's environmental programs. The funds will help support Florida so the state can continue the operation of its environmental programs and address environmental priorities, while strengthening its partnership with EPA."

TWEETS ...

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Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS PRAISE BILL WEHRUM EPA NOMINATION

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS PRAISE BILL WEHRUM EPA NOMINATION

Wehrum Nominated to Head Air and Radiation Office

WASHINGTON (September 7, 2017) Today, President Donald J. Trump announced his intention to nominate Bill Wehrum to serve as EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR). Mr. Wehrum has a long history of public service, and previously served as EPA's acting assistant administrator for Air and Radiation from 2005 to 2007 and as EPA's principal deputy assistant administrator and counsel to the assistant administrator for Air and Radiation. He is currently partner and head of the Administrative Law Group at Hunton & Williams LLP where his practice focuses on air quality issues. Mr. Wehrum's career includes over 31 years working in the environmental field through engineering, legal practice, and administrative duties.

His nomination is receiving high accolades from environmental leaders across the country:

Sean Alteri, director, Kentucky Division for Air Quality and 2017 president of the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies*:* "Considering his education and experience as a chemical engineer and an environmental attorney, Mr. Wehrum will be well-positioned to provide clear, concise direction to address the many diverse, complex air quality issues. As a student of the Clean Air Act, Mr. Wehrum's knowledge and experience will greatly benefit EPA, state, and local air pollution control agencies. We look forward to working with Mr. Wehrum and EPA's senior leadership to improve air quality in Kentucky and throughout our nation. The Kentucky Division for Air Quality supports Mr. Wehrum's nomination to serve as the assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation."

John Cruden, president-elect of the American College of Environmental Lawyers and assistant attorney general, Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice (12/2014-1/2017)*:* "I have worked with Bill Wehrum while he was a senior official at EPA during the Bush Administration, and have followed his impressive career in private practice. I believe he is committed to achieving clean air for all citizens and carefully following sound and current science."

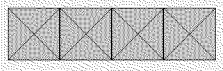
Jeff Holmstead, assistant administrator, Office of Air and Radiation, EPA (2001 –2005): "Bill is committed to the goals of the Clean Air Act and to the rule of law. He is also a person of the highest integrity. I am confident that, within the framework established by Congress, he will work to protect public health and the environment while at the same time pursuing regulatory reforms that will reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens. Truly, there is no better person to serve as the assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation."

Marcus Peacock, EPA deputy administrator (08/2005 – 01/2009): "Bill Wehrum's understanding of the Clean Air Act may be second to none. His desire to pull up his sleeves and actually make the Clean Air Act work as a practical matter is second to none."

Clint Woods, executive director, Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies: "Through his

comprehensive knowledge of the law and experience in the federal government, Bill possesses the background to manage challenging Clean Air Act issues at U.S. EPA and help continue the tremendous air quality progress that has been achieved in our country over the last several decades. Under his leadership, the Office of Air and Radiation will be well-situated to pursue a back-to-basics agenda grounded in cooperative federalism."

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 12/6/2017 8:11:07 PM
Subject: EPA Announces Additional Public Listening Sessions on Proposed Repeal of Clean Power Plan

EPA Announces Additional Public Listening Sessions on Proposed Repeal of Clean Power Plan

WASHINGTON (December 6, 2017) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold three additional public listening sessions on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan in San Francisco, Calif., Gillette, Wyo. and Kansas City, Mo.

"Due to the overwhelming response to our West Virginia hearing, we are announcing additional opportunities for the public to voice their views to the Agency," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**.

Public listening sessions will be on EPA's proposed repeal of the Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units (commonly known as the Clean Power Plan). Dates and specific locations will be released in coming weeks; please see the website for details. All persons wanting to speak are encouraged to register in advance.

"The Trump administration is listening to the people of Wyoming," **said U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW)**. "Today's announcement that the EPA will hold a listening session in Gillette, on the impacts of the so-called 'Clean Power Plan,' demonstrates the administration's commitment to hear directly from the people who would have been hurt most by this punishing regulation. The Clean Power Plan would have meant lost jobs for energy workers in Gillette and across Wyoming. I am thankful to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for his leadership on this important issue."

Registration information will be posted at: https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/electric-utility-generating-units-repealing-clean-power-plan

Oral comments and supporting information presented at each session will be included in the docket for this proceeding.

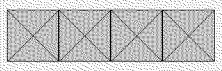
Written comments about EPA's proposal must be received by the last day of the comment period, January 16, 2018. Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0355 and may be submitted by one of the methods listed on the Clean Power Plan Proposed Repeal: How to Comment web page.

Background:
Soon after the previous Administration issued the Clean Power Plan in 2015, 150 entities including 27 states, 24 trade associations, 37 rural electric co-ops, and three labor unions challenged the CPP, highlighting a range of legal and technical concerns. A few months later, the United States Supreme Court stayed the CPP, immediately halting implementation—the first time the Supreme Court had ever issued a stay to block the enforcement of a regulation.

On March 28, 2017, Administrator Pruitt signed a notice indicating the EPA's intent to review the

Clean Power Plan, in accord with the President's Energy Independence Executive Order. On October 16, the EPA proposed to repeal the Clean Power Plan, proposing that it is not consistent with the Clean Air Act. EPA is now taking comment on that proposal and has extended the public comment period to January 16, 2018.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 10/3/2017 7:15:01 PM
Subject: EPA Launches Smart Sectors Program

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Launches Smart Sectors Program

A Program to Engage American Businesses to Achieve Better Environmental Outcomes

WASHINGTON (October 3, 2017) — Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the launch of Smart Sectors, a partnership program between the Agency and regulated sectors focused on achieving better environmental outcomes. A sector-based, collaborative approach provides a significant opportunity for EPA to consider more forward-thinking ways to protect the environment.

"When we consider American business as a partner, as opposed to an adversary, we can achieve better environmental outcomes," said **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "The Smart Sectors program is designed to effectively engage business partners throughout the regulatory process. The previous administration created a narrative that you can't be pro-business and pro-environment. This program is one of the many ways we can address that false choice and work together to protect the environment. When industries and regulators better understand each other, the economy, public, and the environment all benefit."

A sector-based approach can provide benefits, such as: increased long-term certainty and predictability, creative solutions based on sound data; and, more sensible policies to improve environmental protection. Program leads for each sector will serve as ombudsmen within the Agency across program and regional offices. Staff will also: conduct educational site tours, host roundtables with EPA leadership, analyze data and advise about options for environmental improvement; maintain open dialogue with business partners and their environmental committees; and, develop reports that profile the impact of each sector on the environment and the economy.

Smart Sectors aims to facilitate better communication and streamline operations internally at EPA. The program is located in the Office of Policy's Immediate Office, which enables the sector leads to work across EPA's land, water, air, and chemical program offices, as well as with environmental justice, enforcement and compliance assistance, and other offices, including EPA regional offices.

View Smart Sectors Federal Register Notice here.

EPA's Associate Administrator for the Office of Policy, Samantha Dravis; and EPA's Chief of Operations, Henry Darwin, announced the launch at EPA Headquarters on Tuesday, October 3rd, and were joined by representatives from across the American economy, including: Aerospace, Agriculture, Automotive, Cement and Concrete, Chemical Manufacturing, Construction, Electronics and Technology, Forestry and Wood Products, Iron and Steel, Mining, Oil and Gas, Ports and Marine, and Utilities and Power Generation.

"The auto industry is living through what may be its most dynamic moment in history," said **Mitch Bainwol, president and CEO of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers**. "Our technology is transforming the driving experience and mobility models, offering more fuel efficient and safer

transportation for all. We are breaking ground on new plants and expanding existing plants to build the most innovative vehicles in the world. And as we innovate and produce, we are a vital – if not the vital - catalyst for the American economy, providing millions of jobs from coast to coast – building, selling and servicing the vehicles that animate our economy. The Smart Sectors Program benefits us all by providing an open and transparent dialogue on policy that is predicated on solid facts and meaningful data. Protecting the environment while supporting economic growth – these twin goals are paramount, mutually supportive, and enabled by thoughtful collaboration between government and business."

"The Smart Sectors Program shows it's a new day at EPA—and that's good news for the environment and the economy," said **Michael D. Bellaman, president and CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors**. "The nation's construction industry welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with regulators to ensure that environmental protection is streamlined and cost effective. That's the way government can help industry be more productive, create more jobs and grow the economy."

"The real estate industry's leaders are committed to sustainable building management and construction practices that tie directly to their business mission," said **Jeffrey D. DeBoer, president and CEO of The Real Estate Roundtable**. "We look forward to participating in EPA's Smart Sectors Program to share our industry's perspectives on how responsible, measurable environmental stewardship can help create jobs, strengthen our economy, spur innovation, and enhance lasting value for our communities."

"Modern agriculture is environmentally sustainable," said **Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation president**. "From satellite technology and data management to the use of cover crops, farmers and ranchers continue to adopt innovations that are effective in helping them grow more food with fewer resources. That's good for the environment and good for business. EPA's Smart Sectors Program provides a framework of welcome collaboration that embraces continued innovation aligned with our commitment to continuous improvement."

"Manufacturers are committed to protecting the environment and the communities we serve, and we appreciate the efforts of Administrator Pruitt to work with us to jointly address current and future environmental challenges," said **Ross Eisenberg, vice president of energy and resources policy at the National Association of Manufacturers**. "Smarter, modernized regulations are an essential ingredient in supporting manufacturing job growth here in America, so we are excited that the EPA is ringing in this year's Manufacturing Day—when we focus on building the next generation of modern manufacturing workers—with a new EPA Smart Sectors Program. This will hopefully yield better, smarter regulations that achieve their environmental goals while empowering manufacturers to be more competitive and create more well-paying jobs in America."

"We are very pleased that the steel industry can be a part of the Smart Sectors Program, and appreciate the work of Administrator Pruitt and his team to partner with industry to develop a more sensible regulatory framework that better protects human health and the environment," said **Thomas J. Gibson, president and CEO of American Iron and Steel Institute**.

"The American Wood Council supports a smarter, more sensible and cost-effective regulatory process, such as the approach taken by EPA's Smart Sectors Program," said **Robert Glowinski, president and CEO of the American Wood Council**. "AWC represents more than 75 percent of the North American wood products industry, which provides approximately 400,000 men and women with family-wage jobs in the United States. AWC members make wood products that are essential to everyday life from a renewable resource that absorbs and sequesters carbon."

"The oil and natural gas industry is a major economic engine supporting 10.3 million jobs, is leading

the world in the production and refining of oil and natural gas, and is a world leader in reducing carbon emissions from energy use which today are near 25-year lows," said **Kyle Isakower, American Petroleum Institute vice president for regulatory and economic policy**. "We welcome this new partnership and look forward to working with the Agency on this program to ensure that industry is doing all it can to protect the environment and support economic growth."

"We're grateful Administrator Pruitt invited the American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) to participate in this Smart Sectors Program," said **Brian Jennings, ACE executive vice president**. "The biofuels industry is essential to growing the rural economy and protecting the environment."

"America's cement manufacturers have a strong track record of finding creative ways to reduce their environmental footprint while producing the high-quality material our economy needs for building everything from homes to highways and hospitals," said **Todd Johnston, Portland Cement Association executive vice president**. "We look forward to working with EPA and the Administration to protect health and the environment while reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens that undermine economic growth."

"Community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities exist to safely provide reliable, low-cost electricity to more than 49 million Americans, while protecting the environment," said **Sue Kelly, American Public Power Association president and CEO**. "We very much appreciate the EPA's invitation to participate in the Smart Sectors Program, and look forward to a productive dialogue."

"The paper and wood products industry faces enormous challenges from costly, complex and vast amounts of regulations that hurt our ability to contribute to economic growth and job creation," said **Mark Kowlzan, chairman and CEO, Packaging Corporation of America and immediate past chairman of the American Forest & Paper Association Board of Directors**. "We're pleased to participate in the Smart Sectors Program to achieve common-sense regulatory approaches that protect the environment and allow industry to compete at home and around the globe."

"We are thrilled to be part of the EPA's launch of its Smart Sectors Program and are proud to represent an industry that's always first in line when it comes to partnering with EPA to improve its processes and benefits," said **John McKnight, senior vice president of government relations for the National Marine Manufacturers Association**. "The recreational boating industry is unique in that while the EPA, the State of California, and many international environmental government agencies place stringent environmental requirements on our products, our customers—the 142 million Americans who went boating last year—also demand and expect clean water and a healthy environment in which to fish, swim, and enjoy watersports. As a treasured American pastime with 95 percent of the boats sold in the U.S., made in the U.S., an estimated 35,000 marine-related businesses, which provide approximately 650,000 jobs, and an estimated $121 billion in economic impact, the recreational boating industry is one of our country's driving economic engines that is eager to continue meaningful collaboration with the EPA."

"Seaports are vital economic engines and create American jobs," said **Kurt Nagle, American Association of Port Authorities president and CEO**. "Seaport cargo activity accounts for over a quarter of the U.S. economy, supports the employment of more than 23 million people in the United States, and generates over $320 billion in tax revenue annually. AAPA is excited to partner with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the Smart Sectors Program. Improved communication between industry and EPA can streamline processes for all parties, achieving better environmental results and clearer goals and outcomes. The U.S. port industry looks forward to being part of an ongoing dialogue with EPA that furthers ports' commitment to their roles as stewards of coastal resources."

"We welcome the opportunity to explain how long-term, capital-intensive operations like ours – which

require regulatory predictability – can be carefully aligned with important Agency objectives for ensuring health and environmental protection," said **Hal Quinn, president and CEO of the National Mining Association**. "Regulatory policies will be more effective when they are informed by actual conditions in regulated sectors."

"Forest Resources Association serves the whole supply chain from the woods to the mill," said **Ryan Rhodes, director of public relations and government affairs**. "The forest products supply chain supports 2.4 million jobs and is dedicated to the sustainability of forest land through conservation and best practices. We look forward to working together to promote a smarter regulatory outcome, which promotes both jobs and environmental stewardship."

"Finding a way to combine a deep knowledge of how to protect the environment with an understanding of how construction firms operate is the most effective way to craft programs and policies that deliver significant environmental protections to commercial construction sites," said **Stephen E. Sandherr, the chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America**. "The Administrator clearly understands that firms will be able to do more to protect the environment if the regulations they must follow are crafted with an understanding of how employers operate."

"The Smart Sectors Program holds great promise to enable the technology industry to drive environmental protection and economic growth," said **Gary Shapiro, Consumer Technology Association president and CEO**. "Improved dialogue and collaboration between industry and the EPA at the earliest stages will ideally lead to fewer onerous rules that handcuff innovation and job creation. Working together, we can unleash our nation's tech sector to help improve environmental performance and increase sustainability across multiple industries."

"CropLife America is excited to collaborate with EPA and other stakeholders to ensure agriculture-related regulations allow the U.S. food system to advance as well as feed the rising population," said **Jay Vroom, president and CEO of CropLife America**. "Additionally, we believe that through the Smart Sectors Program and developing productive relationships with the Agency and industry partners, we can successfully create the best approach to supporting both economic growth and advance innovation in agriculture, while protecting the environment."

"ACC appreciates Administrator Pruitt's actions to foster a more productive relationship between our industry and the Agency through the Smart Sectors Program, which will help support economic growth in ways that protect our environment," said **Michael Walls, vice president of regulatory and technical affairs for the American Chemistry Council**. "This program is an opportunity to have a more open and constructive dialogue about how the chemistry industry can continue to fuel the economy through innovation while working with EPA to make American businesses, homes and consumer products more efficient, environmentally friendly and sustainable."

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/smartsectors

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ICYMI: Sen. Shelley Moore Capito: Trump EPA Bringing Positive Change

Charleston Gazette-Mail
November 27, 2017
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
https://www.wvgazettemail.com/opinion/daily_mail_opinion/commentary/sen-shelley-moore-capito-trump-epa-bringing-positive-change-daily/article_1a739990-2eb7-5a57-a274-d9069e795c83.html

This Tuesday and Wednesday, the Environmental Protection Agency is holding a listening session in Charleston on its proposal to withdraw from the Obama administration's so-called Clean Power Plan.

The Trump administration's decision to withdraw from this plan, and the decision to hear directly from West Virginians, demonstrate a positive change from the job-killing policies of the previous administration.

West Virginians expect federal agencies to follow the law. We want leaders to consider the impact of regulations on jobs and the economy. And, importantly, officials must listen to those Americans who will be most impacted by their decisions. It's clear that this administration and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt are changing course.

The Clean Power Plan was an effort by the Obama administration to force states to turn away from coal-powered electricity. Congress never gave EPA the authority to implement such a sweeping regulatory change — and that is why the U.S. Supreme Court took the rare step of blocking implementation of the rule before it could take effect.

Legislation I introduced to overturn the rule was passed by both the Senate and the House, but was vetoed by President Barack Obama.

West Virginia is the nation's second-largest coal producing state. Because coal accounts for over 94 percent of electricity generation in our state, West Virginians would have been disproportionately impacted by the Clean Power Plan.

Our state lost thousands of good-paying jobs due in large part to other EPA overreaches. And government budgets at the state and local levels were decimated by the loss of tax revenue that coal has long provided in our state.

But Obama's EPA refused to hold a listening session on the Clean Power Plan in West Virginia.

Instead, the previous administration chose to listen in places like San Francisco, Boston and New York City.

It was clear that Obama's EPA had no desire to hear from the miners, truck drivers, railroad workers, small businesses and many others across coal country whose livelihoods would be most impacted by the rule.

At a Senate hearing, I asked former EPA Air Chief Janet McCabe why the Obama administration chose not to visit West Virginia. She responded that EPA held its public events where it was "comfortable."

After a difficult eight years, it is refreshing to see that the Trump administration is comfortable listening to the needs of working families here in West Virginia.

President Donald Trump and our Republican congressional majority are rolling back some of the worst regulatory abuses of the previous administration. In February, Congress passed, and Trump signed, legislation to block a last-minute rule proposed by Obama's Interior Department that could have cost thousands of jobs.

Everyone agrees that we need clean air and clean water; still, West Virginians should not be forced to choose between economic prosperity and a clean environment. We expect both.

That is why federal environmental laws like the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act provide for cooperation between federal authorities and state officials. This structure allows states to make decisions that are best for local communities' economic and environmental needs.

The last administration upset that balance in favor of heavy-handed control from Washington. That led more than half the states to follow West Virginia's lead in filing suit against the Clean Power Plan.

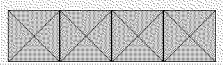
Congress and the Trump administration are working to restore the proper balance that enforces our environmental laws while protecting our jobs. And we are already seeing positive results. West Virginia coal production was up 23 percent in the first half of 2017 as compared with the first half of 2016.

The Trump administration is bringing the change to regulatory policy that West Virginians voted for. I welcome the new EPA to Charleston and will continue working with President Trump to keep West Virginia a leading energy producer for generations to come.

To Read The Full Op-Ed Click Here

U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., chairs the Clean Air and Nuclear Subcommittee on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

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Subject: Coverage From Pruitt's Visit To Iowa And North Dakota

Coverage From EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's Visit To Iowa And North Dakota

Watch Administrator Pruitt's Interview On Fargo's WDAY-TV

Watch Pruitt Talk About Cleaning Up Superfund Sites On Des Moines' WHO-TV

The Des Moines Register reports that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the Obama administration created uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. "Pruitt told The Des Moines Register in an interview Tuesday that the EPA's goal in revising the regulation is to provide an objective definition for every property owner in the country. The Obama administration created uncertainty, he added, raising the question, for example, whether a puddle or a dry creek bed could be declared a water of the United States. The EPA chief also said he sees activity throughout the country to address nutrient reduction to improve water quality. 'I sense a tremendous amount of ownership, commitment and desire to address these matters; industries and state regulators are working together; EPA should facilitate that, EPA should be a part of that,' Pruitt said."

The Sioux City Journal reports that Pruitt held a roundtable with Governor Reynolds, Senator Grassley and Senator Ernst about WOTUS. "Pruitt was in Des Moines on Tuesday as part of a 25-state tour. During his Iowa stop, he appeared at a roundtable discussion with Gov. Kim Reynolds, Iowa agriculture secretary Bill Northey, U.S. Sens. Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst, and leaders with the Iowa Farm Bureau. During an interview Tuesday morning before the event, Pruitt talked about the EPA's effort under Republican President Donald Trump to rewrite a water regulation rule created in 2015 under Democratic President Barack Obama."

In an interview with Radio Iowa, Pruitt says it's his goal to provide "regulatory clarity." "The Environmental Protection Agency's administrator is in Iowa today for meetings with farmers and state officials. Iowa is the 18th state Scott Pruitt has visited as his agency considers a new 'Waters of the U.S.' rule to replace regulations drafted by the Obama Administration, but put on hold by the courts. 'When the EPA defines a 'Waters of the United States' as being a puddle, a dry creek bed and an ephemeral drainage ditch, then clearly they were misplaced,' Pruitt said this morning, 'and they have not provided great certainty to landowners.'"

Governor Kim Reynolds said that Pruitt promised to partner, not dictate to farmers. As Radio Iowa reports: "The governor said Pruitt indicated the new regulations would define what areas are not under federal jurisdiction. A court suspended the "Waters of the U.S." rules written by the Obama Administration before they took effect, but Reynolds said farmers delayed conservation measures and other land improvements because of the uncertainty about what might come next. 'Dramatically had an impact on our ability to move forward with conservation practices for not only water quality,

for soil health,' she said during a news conference."

Additionally, Senator Grassley and Senator Ernst hope the federal government will work with state and local leaders on rewriting this rule. As KMA 960-AM reports: "Senator Grassley says the current WOTUS rule doesn't take family farms into consideration. 'What I get from this meeting we had today is the (family farmer) is a core principle of this administration through President Trump,' Grassley said, 'and being delivered through the outstanding work of the administrator of the EPA, Pruitt.' Meanwhile, Senator Ernst hopes the federal government will work with state and local leaders on the rewriting process."

The Waterloo Courier reports that Pruitt praised our farmers and ranchers for being conservationists and environmentalists. "Pruitt said farmers and other landowners have a natural incentive to maintain healthy water and environment. 'People presume that by withdrawing the old rule and providing a substitute definition that there's going to be a dearth of regulation or a dearth of oversight with respect to water quality,' Pruitt said. 'One of the things that we've got to keep in mind is that farmers and ranchers, as an example, are our first conservationists and environmentalists. The greatest asset they have is the land.'"

Click Here To Listen To Scott Pruitt's Interview With Governor Doug Burgum And Scott Hennen On Fargo's 1100 AM The Flag

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Sent: Mon 8/21/2017 8:07:29 PM
Subject: EPA Announces Appointment of Trey Glenn to Region 4 Administrator

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

EPA Announces Appointment of Trey Glenn to Region 4 Administrator

Glenn Will Lead Environmental Protection Efforts Across Eight Southern States

WASHINGTON (August 21, 2017) – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Trey Glenn of Alabama to become Regional Administrator for EPA's Southeast Region (Region 4). Mr. Glenn will employ his 22 years of environmental and regulatory experience in leading the environmental protection efforts across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Mr. Glenn served as director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) from 2005 - 2009 where he managed over 600 ADEM employees tasked with ensuring a safe, healthy, and productive environment to all Alabama residents. Mr. Glenn also served as division director for the Alabama Office of Water Resources from 2001- 2005 where he was responsible for leading day-to-day operations on coordinating and managing Alabama's water resources. Most recently, Mr. Glenn has been working as an independent engineer consultant and business owner, focused on environmental issues.

"Trey Glenn will bring invaluable experience as regional administrator having spent over two decades working in the field of environmental and regulatory policy," **said Administrator Pruitt**. "Mr. Glenn will help us carry out President Trump's vision of creating a more streamlined and efficient EPA that focuses on the Agency's core mission, while also providing more regulatory certainty to our nation's businesses."

What others are saying about Trey Glenn's appointment:

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey: "We are proud to have a person of Trey Glenn's caliber leading such an important organization for our area. His experience as Director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management places him in a unique position to be prepared to work with these southern states. We are also especially glad to know someone with in-depth knowledge of Alabama will be overseeing our region. Our state looks forward to working closely with Trey and the EPA team to ensure the needs of the state are met and that we stay environmentally friendly."

United States Senator Richard Shelby: "As an accomplished environmental engineer from Alabama, Trey Glenn is well-prepared for this new role and challenge as the EPA Region 4 Administrator. Trey has a proven record of leveraging internal and external operations to advance clearly defined goals. Having served as the director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, he understands the value and importance of state authority and control. I am confident that Trey will provide respected leadership across the eight state region, while also promoting and protecting a strong and healthy environment."

Director of Alabama Department of Environmental Management Lance R. LeFleur: "I have had the opportunity to work with Trey Glenn as I transitioned into my position as Director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management – a position he previously occupied – so I have seen his capabilities first hand. President Trump made a wise choice in selecting Trey. I am confident he will do an outstanding job, especially considering he will have an exceptionally fine career staff in Region 4 at his side. I look forward to working with Trey in assuring for Alabama citizens a safe, healthful, and productive environment."

Georgia Environmental Protection Division Director Richard Dunn: "We welcome the selection of Trey Glenn and look forward to working with him and the Region 4 team to identify more aligned and mutually supportive efforts to address today's environmental challenges."

Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection Commissioner Aaron Keatley: "The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet is pleased to learn of Trey Glenn's appointment as the U.S. EPA Regional Administrator for EPA Region 4. His experience in leading a state environmental agency and in private sector consulting provides him with a valuable perspective on state and local priorities and needs. Trey's experience and leadership will help facilitate the ability of U.S. EPA to make reasonable and timely decisions on environmental topics important to Kentucky. We look forward to working with Trey as we partner together to protect Kentucky's environment and create new opportunities for the growth of Kentucky's economy."

South Carolina Director of Environmental Affairs Myra Reece: "The new Regional Administrator has experienced first hand the many environmental challenges that states and rural communities face, as well as recognizes the value of robust stakeholder engagement and collaborative problem solving. We look forward to working with Trey and the entire EPA Region 4 team as we enhance and reconfigure the cooperative federalism relationship and work more effectively in achieving SC's vision of *Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities."*

Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Gary Rikard: "I look forward to working with Trey Glenn in his new position as EPA Regional Administrator. His prior experience as head of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management will bolster Administrator Pruitt's goal of improving cooperative federalism and building relationships between EPA and the states in administering environmental regulations and policy."

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Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 5:05:00 PM
Subject: Pruitt: President Trump Is Focused On Growing Our Economy

Pruitt: President Trump Is Focused On Growing Our Economy

WASHINGTON – Earlier today, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt was on Fox Business where he discussed President Trump's decision to leave the Paris Accord and how the President is focused on growing our economy.

As Fox Business reports:

Click Here To Watch The Interview

BACKGROUND

Pruitt On The Paris Accord …

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "When the Paris Accord was cut, the head, father of climate science, James Hanson, former NASA scientist, called the Paris Accord a fake and a fraud. The Sierra Club's general counsel criticized the deal, because China and India didn't have to take any steps under the deal until 2030. India conditioned all of their activity on two and half trillion dollars in aid that would pass through the green climate fund. . . … This whole process in Paris was all about talk. The previous administration talked a good game, but they did very little. What the President is doing now is saying let's [get] focused on what we achieved as a [country,] export [that] to the rest of the world and engage in true discussions [on] how to reduce co2."

Pruitt On Trump's Vision To Grow Our Economy …

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "Absolutely, we should be focused upon using the greatest innovative technology to keep emission levels low in all areas and also growing an economy."

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Sent: Wed 8/9/2017 8:51:48 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Takes State Action Tour to North Dakota

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Takes State Action Tour to North Dakota

Meets with Bipartisan Delegation of State Leaders

Fargo, N.D. (August, 9, 2018) – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt continued his state action tour in North Dakota on Wednesday, visiting his ninth state in four weeks.

"As I've traveled state-to-state, farmers and landowners have told me firsthand the harmful impacts the 2015 WOTUS rule would have on American agribusinesses," **said Administrator Pruitt**. "EPA is no longer in the business of advancing unnecessary and burdensome regulations that harm the agriculture industry and do little to help keep water clean."

Administrator Pruitt began his trip with a stop at North Dakota State University in Fargo where he was joined by North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, U.S. Senator John Hoeven, U.S. Congressman Kevin Cramer, North Dakota Lt. Governor Brent Sanford, North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, a representative from U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp's office, and other state officials. Together, they held a roundtable with the North Dakota Farm Bureau, North Dakota's Farmer Union, and other state agribusiness leaders where they discussed EPA's recent decision to begin the process of redefining 'Waters of the United States' (WOTUS) to better provide regulatory certainty for farmers and landowners while also helping empower traditional state governing powers.

"We're very grateful to host Administrator Pruitt in North Dakota and discuss how federal regulations impact energy, agriculture, and natural resources in our state, and to thank him for his efforts to roll back burdensome and overreaching regulations such as the Waters of the U.S.," **said Governor Burgum.** "We share the fundamental goals of protecting the environment, improving public health and bolstering our economy. We appreciate Administrator Pruitt's commitment to empowering states to solve our collective challenges through more innovation instead of more regulation."

"I appreciate Administrator Pruitt coming to North Dakota to hear from our agriculture and energy producers firsthand," **said Senator Hoeven**. "Their input is vital as we continue working to provide regulatory relief and certainty to empower economic growth and job creation, while ensuring good environmental stewardship."

Administrator Pruitt later traveled to Grand Forks, N.D. with Governor Burgum, Senator Hoeven, Congressman Cramer, Lt. Governor Sanford, and other state officials where they toured the University of North Dakota's Energy and Environmental Center that is working to implement solutions for the world's environmental and energy challenges. After the tour, Administrator Pruitt and the bipartisan North Dakota delegation held a roundtable with UND faculty and members of the local energy industry to discuss how EPA is working to advance environmental stewardship and encourage innovation for more efficient sources of energy.

Earlier today, Administrator Pruitt and Governor Burgum joined Scott Hennen on his radio show on AM 1100 The Flag. The interview can be listened to here:

http://podcast.flagfamily.com/?p=archive&cat=woym

North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum (left) and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (right) talk before joint interview on Flag 1100 AM with Scott Hennen.

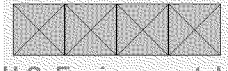
North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum (left), EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (middle), and U.S. Senator John Hoeven hold WOTUS roundtable at North Dakota State University.

North Dakota agribusiness leaders discuss WOTUS at the roundtable.

U.S. Senator John Hoeven, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum tour University of North Dakota's Energy and Environmental Center.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt holds roundtable with North Dakota state officials, UND faculty and members of the local energy industry.

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Sent: Fri 10/20/2017 9:00:04 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Visits Nebraska

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Visits Nebraska

OMAHA (October 20, 2017) – Today, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska to meet with Governor Pete Ricketts, state officials, and stakeholders with the Commonsense Nebraska Coalition to discuss the Agency's proposal to rescind the 2015 "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule.

"As I've traveled across the country, countless farmers and ranchers have expressed their concerns over the 2015 WOTUS rule," **said Administration Pruitt.** "By beginning the process to rescind this rule, we are working with our state partners like Governor Ricketts to ensure traditional powers are returned to the states and helping ensure regulatory certainty for our country's agriculture stakeholders."

"Thank you to Administrator Pruitt for all he has done to cut onerous and job-killing federal red tape imposed on the states," said Governor Ricketts. "Administrator Pruitt and the Trump Administration have kept their word and repealed the 2015 Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule that would have threatened future growth in Nebraska agriculture and manufacturing. In his work of rolling back the old rule and writing a new one, Pruitt is returning power to the states and protecting the rights of our farm families and small business owners."

Administrator Pruitt began his trip meeting with Governor Ricketts and members of his cabinet to discuss the Agency's positive environmental agenda moving forward. Attendees included: Nebraska Lt. Governor Mike Foley, Nebraska Department of Agriculture Director Greg Ibach, Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development Courtney Dentlinger, Director of the Nebraska Energy Office David Bracht, Department of Environmental Quality Director Jim Macy, Department of Natural Resources Director Jeff Fassett, Department of Transportation Director Kyle Schneweis, Governor Rickett's Chief of Staff Matt Miltenberger, and Governor Rickett's Policy Research Advisor Lauren Kintner.

Following the Nebraska Cabinet meeting, Administrator Pruitt and Governor Ricketts hosted a roundtable discussion with the Common Sense Nebraska Coalition to discuss ways the Agency can provide sensible regulations to protect waterways.

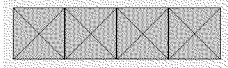
After the roundtable, Administrator Pruitt departed for Omaha where he met with officials from Union Pacific to discuss the importance of EPA's back-to-basics agenda and the Agency's actions to provide regulatory certainty, while also ensuring clean air, land, and water.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt with Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts.

EPA Administrator Pruitt meets members of Governor Ricketts' cabinet.

EPA Administrator Pruitt and Governor Ricketts hold a roundtable with the Commonsense Nebraska Coalition.

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Subject: EPA Announces Superfund Task Force Recommendation

EPA Announces Superfund Task Force Recommendations

Recommendations to Streamline and Improve the Superfund Program

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

(WASHINGTON) — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Task Force released their report to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, providing 42 specific and detailed recommendations to streamline and improve the Superfund program. Administrator Pruitt also signed a directive to leaders across the Agency of 11 specific actions that should be implemented right away, with renewed focus, including identification, within 60 days, of the sites where the risk of human exposure is not fully controlled.

"There is nothing more core to the Agency's mission than revitalizing contaminated land," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "I commend the team effort of the career and political staff on the Task Force, working together to develop recommendations that are detailed, but also workable – to ensure that we can expedite the protection of human health and the environment around these properties and accelerate the reuse. I look forward to leading this team toward full implementation of these recommendations."

"Being on this Task Force was a great opportunity to identify legitimate impediments that prevent expeditious cleanup of Superfund Sites and working to address those issues," **said Karen Melvin, EPA Region 3 Director, Hazardous Site Cleanup Division.**

Established by Congress in 1980, the Superfund Program governs the investigation and cleanup of the nation's most complex hazardous waste sites in order to convert those sites into community resources. The National Priorities List (NPL) came into existence in 1983. It includes those sites that are of national priority among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States. Each year, sites are listed and delisted based on criteria in EPA's regulations. As of June 21, 2017, there are 1,336 sites on the NPL, of which 1,179 are privately owned sites and 157 are federal facilities. Sites on the NPL are in various stages of completion and much work still remains. The recommendations of the Superfund Task Force, when implemented, will improve and expedite the process of site remediation and promote reuse.

The Superfund Task Force, chaired by Albert Kelly, senior advisor to the administrator, was commissioned on May 22, 2017, and includes leaders from EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Office of General Counsel, EPA Region 3 (as the lead region for the Superfund program), as well as other offices.

The 42 Superfund Task Force recommendations are organized into five goals:

- Expediting Cleanup and Remediation;
- Re-invigorating Responsible Party Cleanup and Reuse;
- Encouraging Private Investment;

- Promoting Redevelopment and Community Revitalization; and
- Engaging Partners and Stakeholders

Each goal in the Task Force report is accompanied by a set of strategies that include specific actions which are planned to commence within twelve months.

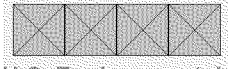
A copy of the directive that the Administrator signed today of the 11 specific actions that leaders across the Agency should implement immediately can be found: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/administrator-pruitts-memo-regarding-receipt-superfund-task-force-report-and-next-steps

To view the complete set of Superfund Task Force recommendations, please visit https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force-recommendations

For more information about the Superfund program, please visit https://www.epa.gov/superfund

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signs directive to leaders across the Agency of 11 specific actions that should be implemented right away

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Subject: Administrator Pruitt Meets With Hurricane Harvey Responders and Officials in Texas

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

Administrator Pruitt Meets With Hurricane Harvey Responders and Officials in Texas

Corpus Christi, Texas (August 30, 2017)— U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt traveled to Corpus Christi today to assess EPA relief efforts and thank responders. Administrator Pruitt also met with local and state leaders to discuss continued relief measures in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

"The devastation endured by Texas this week is unfathomable. As I saw firsthand today, the Lone Star State has shown commendable perseverance in helping their fellow neighbors through this crisis," **said Administrator Pruitt**. "EPA is committed to working with our federal, state, and local partners to provide relief to the affected regions."

EPA has an organized emergency response program and is positioned to support FEMA, state, local and tribal partners. EPA Headquarters' Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated and Administrator Pruitt is in regular contact with EPA staff across the Agency who are part of the hurricane response effort. Helping manage response efforts and focusing on the safety of those affected are the Agency's highest priorities.

EPA supports hurricane preparedness and response in a number of ways, including:

- **Addressing Fuel Shortages:** The Clear Air Act allows EPA Administrator Pruitt, in consultation with Energy Secretary Perry, to waive certain fuel requirements to address shortages that occur as a result of the storm. If Administrator Pruitt determines that extreme and unusual fuel supply circumstances exist in a state or region as a result of the hurricane, a temporary waiver can help ensure an adequate supply of gasoline is available in the affected area, particularly for emergency vehicles. EPA has an experienced team standing by to expedite handling of fuel waiver requests by the states.

- **Monitoring Public Water Systems:** Water systems can be severely impacted during hurricanes due to storm surge, flooding, or loss of power. EPA Region 6 has developed a tracking system for us to identify systems in the storm's pathway. Over 4,000 public drinking water systems have been potentially impacted by hurricane Harvey and flooding in Texas. Both Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Louisiana Department of Hospitals have uploaded their potentially impacted systems into Response Manager, which enables planning for rapid assessments to restore water systems after the flood waters recede. EPA and TCEQ are conducting damage assessments of both drinking water and wastewater systems to identify impacts to critical assets and assist in the recovery.

- **Securing Superfund Sites:** EPA assesses conditions at the NPL Superfund sites in the storm's impact area and tasks each Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) remedial site manager to assess conditions and make on-site preparations for high winds and heavy rainfall.

Any on-site activities at sites located in the storm's path are ceased until the all clear is given and on-site equipment is secured. In addition, freeboard for lagoons or ponds is increased to accommodate forecasted rainfall if possible. Today, EPA began rapid assessments at two sites that are accessible after floodwaters have receded and this work will continue.

- **Assessing Conditions at Major Industrial Facilities:** EPA assesses conditions at the major industrial facilities in the affected area to identify potential impacts and countermeasures. Following the storm and receding floodwaters, spills and releases are reported to the National Response Center. NRC notifies U.S. Coast Guard or EPA based on preapproved jurisdiction boundaries. EPA conducts follow up inspections and damage assessments in response to reports within EPA jurisdiction.

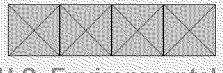
Photos from Administrator Pruitt's visit to Corpus Christi today:

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt meets with officials from Corpus Christi and neighboring towns to discuss Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt visits with cleanup staff at a debris action station in Corpus Christi.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is debriefed on recovery efforts at the Port of Corpus Christi Emergency Operations Center.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 8/17/2017 3:20:15 PM
Subject: WSJ: Coal Makes a Comeback

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Coal Makes A Comeback

Trump's policies and exports to Europe are helping the industry.
Wall Street Journal
Editorial Board
August 16, 2017
https://www.wsj.com/articles/coal-makes-a-comeback-1502926053

Not long ago liberals hailed the demise of coal as inevitable while the Obama Administration strangled the industry with regulation. But don't look now, Tom Steyer, because coal is showing signs of a revival and breathing economic life into West Virginia and other coal states.

Former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy proclaimed in 2015 that coal "is no longer marketable." She planned to be the lead undertaker. The Obama Administration worked tirelessly to fulfill her mission and may have succeeded had Hillary Clinton become President. "We're going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of work," the 2016 Democratic nominee famously promised.

Yet the Trump Presidency seems to have lifted animal spirits and coal. Weekly coal production has increased by 14.5% nationwide over last year with even bigger bumps in West Virginia (19%), Pennsylvania (19.7%) and Wyoming (19.8%). Exports were up 58% during the first quarter from last year. Apparently coal can be marketable if regulators let it be.

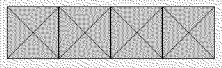
The Obama Administration first targeted coal consumption with rules on mercury emissions and ash disposal that would have made it next to impossible to build a new coal-burning power plant. Then came the 2015 Clean Power Plan that would have forced the existing fleet of coal plants into early retirement.

Finally, the Obama anti-coal warriors sought to shut down coal's export potential. Thick-seamed coal on federal land in the Powder River Basin overlying Wyoming and Montana is relatively clean-burning and inexpensive to mine. The Obama Interior Department suspended new coal leases on federal land last winter and then reassessed royalty payments—thereby reducing investment and profitability. In December came the *coup de grâce*: Interior's stream rule usurping state authority over permitting.

President Trump has called a cease fire to his predecessor's "war on coal." In February he signed a resolution repealing the stream rule under the Congressional Review Act. The Supreme Court stayed the Clean Power Plan in February 2016, and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is dismantling the power rule as well as the ash and mercury rules.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Sun 7/30/2017 1:16:27 PM
Subject: Tulsa World: Heaven forfend! Scott Pruitt is going home on weekends!

The Tulsa World

Heaven Forfend! Scott Pruitt Is Going Home On Weekends!

NOTE 1: The Washington press corps and the environmental lobby might prefer that the EPA boss be held captive on the East Coast and that he hear nothing but the opinions of "green" lobbyists, but the people out in fly-over country like it when we're being heard, too.

NOTE 2: It's apparent to us, and we suspect to Pruitt, that environmental extremists are determined to find anything they can use against him, including this not-so-damning evidence that he hasn't abandoned his family

Editorial
July 30, 2017
http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/editorials/tulsa-world-editorial-heaven-forfend-scott-pruitt-is-going-home/article_d54095df-4a88-5e5f-910b-34fa0944d8d4.html

If we were supposed to shocked to learn that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is going home on weekends, we're not.

A fishing expedition request for Pruitt's EPA expense accounts by an environmentalist advocacy group pretty much discovered just that, and that he was spending some public money along the way and met with people that the advocates don't approve of.

The New York Times first reported the results of a Freedom of Information request for Pruitt's expense accounts filed by the Environmental Integrity Project, which has a history of blocking development and encouraging regulation. The findings: Pruitt returned to his Tulsa home at least 10 times in his first three months in office, costing taxpayers more than $15,000.

During his trips home, Pruitt made some stops, including an informational meeting at the Brainerd Chemical Company in Tulsa and a speech to the Heritage Foundation in Colorado.

As outrages go, it's not worth much.

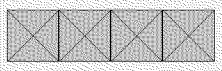
The Washington press corps and the environmental lobby might prefer that the EPA boss be held captive on the East Coast and that he hear nothing but the opinions of "green" lobbyists, but the people out in fly-over country like it when we're being heard, too.

We prefer it when the people at the top of the nation's bureaucratic pyramid get out of the Beltway once in a while to talk to ordinary Americans. If Pruitt is coming home to see his friends, family, neighbors and some of the people he regulates, then good for him. That sounds like the acts of a balanced man who wants to know the thinking of the public, not just the pro-regulation lobbyists.

It's apparent to us, and we suspect to Pruitt, that environmental extremists are determined to find anything they can use against him, including this not-so-damning evidence that he hasn't abandoned his family.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 6/27/2017 6:15:00 PM
Subject: EPA, U.S. Army Move to Rescind 2015 "Waters of the U.S."

EPA, U.S. Army Move to Rescind 2015 "Waters of the U.S."

WASHINGTON – (June 27, 2017) The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Army, and Army Corps of Engineers (the agencies) are proposing a rule to rescind the Clean Water Rule and re codify the regulatory text that existed prior to 2015 defining "waters of the United States" or WOTUS. This action would, when finalized, provide certainty in the interim, pending a second rulemaking in which the agencies will engage in a substantive re-evaluation of the definition of "waters of the United States." The proposed rule would be implemented in accordance with Supreme Court decisions, agency guidance, and longstanding practice.

"We are taking significant action to return power to the states and provide regulatory certainty to our nation's farmers and businesses," said Administrator Scott Pruitt. **"This is the first step in the two-step process to redefine 'waters of the U.S.' and we are committed to moving through this re-evaluation to quickly provide regulatory certainty, in a way that is thoughtful, transparent and collaborative with other agencies and the public."**

This proposed rule follows the February 28, 2017, Presidential Executive Order on "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule." The February Order states that it is in the national interest to ensure that the Nation's navigable waters are kept free from pollution, while at the same time promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty, and showing due regard for the roles of Congress and the States under the Constitution. To meet these objectives, the agencies intend to follow an expeditious, two-step process that will provide certainty across the country.

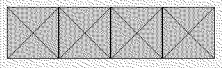
The proposed rule would recodify the identical regulatory text that was in place prior to the 2015 Clean Water Rule and that is currently in place as a result of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit's stay of the 2015 rule. Therefore, this action, when final, will not change current practice with respect to how the definition applies.

The agencies have also begun deliberations and outreach on the second step rulemaking involving a re-evaluation and revision of the definition of "waters of the United States" in accordance with the Executive Order.

"The Army, together with the Corps of Engineers, is committed to working closely with and supporting the EPA on these rulemakings. As we go through the rulemaking process, we will continue to make the implementation of the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulatory program as transparent as possible for the regulated public, " said Mr. Douglas Lamont, senior official performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

For the pre-publication Federal Register Notice and additional information: http://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 6/13/2017 12:14:13 PM
Subject: WSJ: Cleaning Up The Superfund Mess

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...

Cleaning Up The Superfund Mess
Obama Put Climate Gestures Above Toxic Waste Remedies.

The Wall Street Journal
June 12, 2017
https://www.wsj.com/articles/cleaning-up-the-superfund-mess-1497309104

One cost of making climate change a religion is that more immediate environmental problems have been ignored—not least by the Environmental Protection Agency. New EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt plans to address that in an underreported effort to clean up toxic waste sites under the so-called Superfund program.

In a memo to EPA staff last month, Mr. Pruitt announced a plan to reform the Superfund program created in 1980 and to accelerate the clean up of hazardous waste sites such as old industrial properties or landfills. The effort is long overdue. Superfund has too often become a sinecure for the bureaucracy and a cash cow for lawyers. EPA staff offices can wait years or decades to assess a Superfund site, figure out who's liable for what, consult with the community, decide on a remedy and assign the actual work.

Take the West Lake Landfill Superfund site in Bridgeton, Missouri, which was used for quarrying in the 1930s and later as a landfill. In 1973, 8,700 tons of leached barium sulfate from the Manhattan Project was dumped there, along with soil and waste. The EPA listed the 200-acre facility as a Superfund site in 1990.

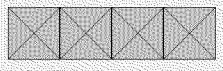
Yet it took 18 years for EPA to decide how to clean up West Lake, finally settling in 2008 on a "multi-layered engineered cover and a system of new monitoring wells." In 2009 the Obama EPA ditched that solution and re-opened the file. In 2010 an underground chemical reaction ignited a fire that is still smoldering.

Another example is the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex in Idaho and Washington state that polluted the air and soil with heavy metals such as lead. The EPA put Bunker Hill on its original list of 406 Superfund sites in 1983, but it too remains an open case.

Or Portland Harbor, in Oregon, which was listed in 2000. The private companies EPA found responsible spent years and tens of millions of dollars on a clean-up study that the agency eventually discarded. Obama EPA chief Gina McCarthy didn't choose a remedy for the site until this January, days before President Trump's inauguration, using information that was more than a decade old.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Mon 8/7/2017 7:21:53 PM
Subject: EPA ELIMINATES NEW-CHEMICAL BACKLOG, ANNOUNCES IMPROVEMENTS TO NEW CHEMICAL SAFETY REVIEWS

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

EPA ELIMINATES NEW-CHEMICAL BACKLOG, ANNOUNCES IMPROVEMENTS TO NEW CHEMICAL SAFETY REVIEWS

Administrator Pruitt Strengthens TSCA New Chemical Review Program to Ensure Safety, Transparency and Continuous Improvements

WASHINGTON (August 7, 2017) – Following through with Administrator Pruitt's commitment to eliminating the backlog of new chemical cases that were stuck in EPA's review processes upon his confirmation, Administrator Pruitt is reporting that the backlog is eliminated.

"EPA has a tremendous responsibility to review new chemicals intended to enter the U.S. market for safety," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "EPA can either be a roadblock to new products, or it can be supporter of innovation and ever-improving chemical safety. I am happy to report that the backlog of new chemical reviews is eliminated. With the ongoing commitment of the staff working on TSCA reviews, and input from stakeholders, our goal is to ensure a new chemicals program that is both protective of human health and the environment, while also being supportive of bringing new chemicals to market."

The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), amended by the 2016 Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, ensures that EPA must make an affirmative safety determination before a new chemical can come to market. EPA can request more information from chemical companies if it needs more information to make a safety determination.

When Administrator Pruitt was confirmed, over 600 new chemicals were 'stuck' in the EPA review process. The current caseload is back at the baseline and now in line with the typical active workload. Administrator Pruitt committed to being a partner in the regulatory process, and ensuring safety for health and the environment, while also seeking ways to allow new chemicals to enter the market quickly, once EPA is assured that the chemical is not likely to present unreasonable risk for the intended and reasonably foreseen uses.

In addition to announcing the elimination of the backlog, EPA Administrator Pruitt is committing the Agency to a more predictable and transparent process for making safety determinations through a commitment to following operating principles; continuously improving; and, increasing the transparency in the decision-making for new chemical safety determinations.

"Not only do I support reducing the backlogs that have built up at this Agency, I also encourage continuous improvement and increased transparency," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Additional Details of New Measures to Strengthen EPA's New Chemicals Review

EPA is committing to the following operating principles in its review of new chemicals:

- Where the intended uses in premanufacture notices (PMNs) or other Section 5 notices (such as low volume exemption (LVE) requests) raise risk concerns, EPA will work with submitters, and, if the submitters submit timely amended PMNs addressing those concerns, EPA will generally make determinations based on those amended submissions.
- Where EPA has concerns with reasonably foreseen uses, but not with the intended uses as described in a PMN or LVE application, as a general matter, those concerns can be addressed through significant new use rules.
- As described in the risk evaluation rule EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signed on June 22, 2017, identification of reasonably foreseen conditions of use will be fact-specific. It is reasonable to foresee a condition of use, for example, where facts suggest the activity is not only possible, but, over time under proper conditions, probable.
- The purpose of testing in a Section 5 order is to reduce uncertainty in regard to risk. Specifically, it is to address risk concerns that gave rise to a finding of "may present unreasonable risk" or another Section 5 finding other than "not likely to present unreasonable risk." In addition, consistent with the statute, any request for testing by EPA will be structured to reduce and replace animal testing as appropriate.

EPA supports continued improvement of EPA's TSCA new chemicals program, including:

- Redeploying staff to increase the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff working on new chemicals.
- Initiating a LEAN exercise to streamline work processes around new chemicals review.
- Institutionalizing a voluntary pre-submission consultation process so that submitters have a clear understanding of what information will be most useful for EPA's review of their new chemical submission, and of what they can expect from EPA during the review process. While such engagement prior to submission is an additional up-front time and resource commitment by submitters and EPA, it should more than pay for itself with faster, better-informed EPA reviews.

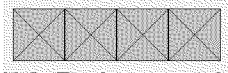
EPA needs to be more transparent in how it makes decisions on new chemicals under TSCA:

- In Fall 2017, EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) intends to release, for public comment and stakeholder engagement, draft documents that will provide the public with more certainty and clarity regarding how EPA makes new chemical determinations and what external information will help facilitate these determinations.
- EPA will facilitate a public dialogue on the Agency's goal of continued improvement in the new chemicals review program.
- EPA will continue posting weekly web updates of program statistics, so that manufacturers and the public can determine the disposition of cases as quickly as possible.

For more information on the TSCA program, please visit:

https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca/statistics-new-chemicals-review

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 7/11/2017 5:27:24 PM
Subject: EPA Administrator Pruitt Addresses American Farm Bureau's State Leadership Meeting

EPA Administrator Pruitt Addresses American Farm Bureau's State Leadership Meeting

Scott Pruitt reaffirms Trump Administration's commitment to American farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 11, 2017) - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt addressed the American Farm Bureau Federation's State Leadership Meeting earlier today to discuss EPA's recent decision to begin rescinding the 'Waters of the U.S.' rule (WOTUS), as well as other issues of concern to American farmers.

"EPA is returning power to the states and standing with farmers who have been hurt by misguided policies of the past," said Administrator Pruitt. **"The farming industry deserves regulatory certainty and I committed that to them today. The group expressed gratitude that their voices are being heard for the first time in a long time and I look forward to an ongoing partnership with the agriculture community in the future."**

The address follows the Administrator's visit to Gully Branch Tree Farm in rural Georgia last week where he and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue visited one of Georgia's premier outdoor classrooms to promote environmental stewardship and reaffirm the Trump Administration's commitment to farmers and foresters.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses American Farm Bureau's State Leadership Meeting

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 10/12/2017 6:21:50 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Visits Mississippi

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Visits Mississippi

Announces Regulatory Action on Pesticide Dicamba

Jackson, Miss. (October 12, 2017) – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt met with Governor Phil Bryant, farmers and other state leaders to discuss ways to strengthen partnerships with EPA. During the visit, Administrator Pruitt announced that EPA is working on an agreement with the manufacturers of the pesticide dicamba to minimize the potential for drift to damage neighboring crops from the use of the pesticide – an agreement that will allow cotton and soybean farmers to make informed choices for seed purchases for the 2018 growing season.

"Our job at EPA is not to look at folks in Mississippi as adversaries, but as partners," **said Administrator Pruitt**. "It is of the utmost importance to continue to collaborate with state and local leaders to provide American farmers and ranchers the regulatory certainty they deserve."

"Mississippi farmers are the original conservationists," **said Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant.** "I am grateful for Administrator Pruitt's commitment to working with us to develop strategies that will strengthen agriculture in Mississippi while protecting our environment."

Administrator Pruitt began his trip with a stop at the State Capitol where he met with Governor Bryant and other state leaders. Following their meeting, Administrator Pruitt and Governor Bryant hosted a roundtable along with Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation President Mike McCormick, and other stakeholders to discuss EPA's recent proposal to rescind the 2015 "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule to help ensure regulatory certainty and prioritize keeping America's water clean.

After the roundtable, Administrator Pruitt and Governor Bryant departed for Gaddis Farms in Bolton where the Administrator announced EPA's regulatory action on dicamba and took questions from farmers.

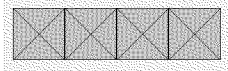
EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt with Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (second from right) and Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant (right) greet stakeholders at Gaddis Farms in Bolton, Miss.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt greets Ted Kendall, owner of Gaddis Farms.

Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant and EPA Administrator Scott Pruit speak with Ted Kendall.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
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Sent: Mon 6/12/2017 4:02:56 PM
Subject: Bipartisan Environmental Leaders Praise Susan Bodine's EPA Nomination

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Bipartisan Environmental Leaders Praise Susan Bodine's EPA Nomination

WASHINGTON – (June 12, 2017) Prior to Susan Bodine's confirmation hearing in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee tomorrow, environmental leaders, including former DOJ and EPA officials who served in both Republican and Democrat administrations, are offering praise for Bodine's nomination to serve as EPA's Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Bodine currently serves as Chief Counsel for the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) committee. She previously served as EPA's Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response in the George W. Bush Administration, and possesses nearly 29 years of environmental law experience.

What They're Saying About Susan Bodine's Nomination ...

Senate EPW Chairman John Barrasso: "She has extensive experience working both on Capitol Hill and previously in leadership at the EPA. Susan is committed to finding commonsense ways to protect America's land, air, and water. In this new role, I know that she will work to help communities and small businesses comply with the law, while holding polluters accountable."

John Cruden, President-Elect of the American College of Environmental Lawyers and Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice (12/2014-1/2017): "I have worked with Susan over a number of years as she has had significant leadership positions in environmental law and practice. Susan is dedicated to the rule of law, a lawyer with great integrity, and she understands the critical importance of effective and timely enforcement."

Marcus Peacock, EPA Deputy Administrator (08/2005 – 01/2009): "I have known Susan for over 20 years. I can think of no better person to lead the enforcement office at EPA. She understands the mission of the agency and the office and how important it is to protecting human health and the environment. A perfect pick."

Scott Fulton, President of The Environmental Law Institute and EPA General Counsel (08/2009-01/2013): "During the Obama Administration, when I served as EPA's General Counsel, Susan and I worked collaboratively on matters of shared concern to the Administration and the Congress. … Through these various intersections, I have found Susan to be fair minded, clear thinking, and strategic in her approach, as well as effective in her leadership. She has a deep understanding of EPA and the EPA-State relationship, which will equip her well to lead OECA."

Avi Garbow, EPA General Counsel (08/2013-01/2017) and Deputy General Counsel, EPA (09/2014-08/2013): "Based on my experience, Ms. Bodine possesses a strong intellect, a keen understanding of environmental law and policy, and is respectful and responsive. She is a seasoned environmental lawyer and a skilled advocate. It is also my view that Ms. Bodine's prior service at EPA is an important – though not indispensable – factor to be considered in her nomination. Her familiarity with the Agency and its talented staff would be of service to OECA and Administrator Pruitt, should she be confirmed."

Roger Martella, EPA General Counsel (08/2006-04/2008): "Susan epitomizes all the best character and traits we can ask of public servants: tireless and unflappable commitment to the mission of environmental protection and promoting human health, protective of transparency and process in her decision making, objective and apolitical approach to leadership, and empowerment of career decision makers in government."

Granta Nakayama, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (07/2005-01/2009): [Bodine is a] "fine environmental attorney" who "reads the statutes and parses the words and does the hard work. She's . . . rigorous in that sense." "[She is also] "an experienced hand in Washington and knows how to get things done. She is very practical and looks for solutions that are going to be workable for everybody."

Mathy Stanislaus, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management (06/2009-01/2017): "[Susan] understands both the internal side of the agency and the proper balance of enforcement."

Marianne Horinko, EPA Acting Administrator (07/2013-11/2013) and EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (10/2001-06/2004): "Susan Bodine is extremely qualified to run EPA's enforcement office. As a dedicated public servant with years of experience in environmental policy, she brings a vast understanding of both the agency and the community it regulates. Susan is well suited to carry out the mission of the Administration, and to protect clean air, land and water for the American people."

Elliot Laws, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (1993-1997): "While I don't envy her challenge, I think bringing Susan back to the agency is an excellent idea." "Having a familiar face back at EPA in a senior role is a plus for staff morale. Bringing in someone with her knowledge of the agency and the issues facing it can only be a positive."

Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (03/2016-present), EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Water (11/2004-01/2009): "She's tough and fair and committed to public service. [Bodine] embodies a compliance-first approach, but also will bring enforcement actions when needed."

G. Tracy Mehan, III, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Water (08/2001-12/2003) "Susan Bodine brings a commanding intellect and a vast reservoir of experience in environmental policy to the job of running EPA's enforcement office. The Agency and the American people will benefit tremendously from her legislative, executive and legal expertise across the spectrum of air, land and water. The Administration has made an outstanding selection."

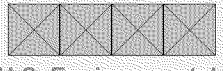
Cliff Rothenstein, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (04/1997-06/2000): "I have known Ms. Bodine for almost 20 years where she served as committee counsel to the House Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Environment and Public Works committees, and as Assistant administrator for the EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. She is a dedicated public servant and is well-qualified to lead EPA's office of

Enforcement and Compliance Assistance. Ms. Bodine has proved herself time and again to be fair, competent, professional and well respected by those who have had the pleasure to work with her. As an added benefit, Ms. Bodine knows EPA well and is known and respected by EPA employees."

Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director, U.S. Conference of Mayors" "Many Mayors, as well as my senior staff, have worked with Ms. Susan Bodine over the past 20 plus years. … Throughout these years, working with Ms. Bodine has been a real pleasure and she has been an asset in every job she has done. She is extremely thoughtful, knowledgeable and professional and has an understanding of the importance of protecting the environment and public health and to do so in an economically responsible way. Her common sense approach to environmental protection and infrastructure investment is widely respected among her peers and my Mayors. While we are sorry to lose her in her current role, she would be a welcome asset at the EPA."

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation: "Susan Bodine's breadth and depth of experience in environmental protection make her an outstanding nominee to lead OECA. … In her decades of experience in private practice, for Congress and EPA, Susan Bodine has proven her leadership skills and her deep understanding of our nation's environmental laws and how they affect ordinary citizens and small businesses. She has shown leadership in working toward solutions with groups on all sides of the many controversies that entangle environmental protection. We believe she will strictly enforce our nation's environmental laws, using the hammer when necessary. We also believe she will bring back an effective yet underutilized tool in EPA's toolbox – compliance assistance. Farmers and ranchers across the nation look forward to a new era of firm, but fair enforcement."

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 7/14/2017 10:05:00 PM
Subject: EPA's Weekly Report For 07/14/17

EPA's Weekly Round-Up ...

This week EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt visited Senators on Capitol Hill, promoted the Federal Green Challenge, and talked with reporters from Reuters and Politico about protecting the environment. Here is a look a recap of the work being done each day at EPA.

NATIONAL COVERAGE …

Politico **reports that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt discussed the hypocrisy of President Trump's European critics. "**EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt dismissed European critics of President Donald Trump's climate policies as hypocrites on Wednesday, while chastising German Chancellor Angela Merkel for phasing out her country's nuclear power plants. 'I just think the hypocrisy runs rampant,' Pruitt said in an interview with POLITICO. 'To look at us as a nation and say, 'You all need to do more' in light of what we've done in leading with innovation and technology — the hypocrisy is palpable in those areas.' Pruitt mentioned Merkel by name, urging the public to press her on the issue. If reducing carbon dioxide emissions 'is so important to you, Madam Chancellor, why are you getting rid of nuclear? Because last time I checked, it's pretty clean on CO2,' he said."

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt also sat down with Reuters **where he gave a wide-ranging interview about protecting the environment and American jobs.** "U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt gave Reuters a wide-ranging interview on Monday at his office in Washington, discussing issues from climate science to automobile emissions."

TO THE STATES …

In California, The Press-Enterprise **reported on EPA granting the Morongo Band of Mission Indians $167,000 that will help replace older vehicles, including a refuse hauler, with newer, more environmentally friendly vehicles.** "The Morongo Band of Mission Indians is one of two western tribes to benefit from an EPA program designed to reduce emissions from diesel trucks and buses. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest Region awarded more than $167,000 to the Morongo Band to help buy two heavy-duty vehicles through the Diesel Emission Reduction Act."

In Oregon, the East Oregonian **reported that Whitman Mission National Historic Site has been selected to receive an award from the Environmental Protection Agency for water conservation.** "Whitman Mission National Historic Site has been selected to receive an award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for water conservation after the park lowered its water usage by 36 percent in 2016. The award comes from the Federal Green Challenge, part of the EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program, which challenges government offices throughout the country to reduce their environmental impact."

In Texas, The Gilmer Mirror **reported that EPA awarded $2.7 million to the Texas Commission**

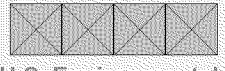
on Environmental Quality to help improve water quality. “The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awarded the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) a performance partnership grant of $2,775,937 for administering water quality and environmental programs.”

In New Mexico, Carla J. Sonntag writes in The Farmington Daily Times about EPA's pursuit of sensible regulatory reform. "So much drama, so little focus on the facts. That’s the heart of methane issues being addressed by both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Land Management."

In Kentucky, The Richmond Register reported that EPA has awarded a $200K grant to help facilitate the cleanup of the Parker Seal plant. “A $200,000 grant has been awarded for the environmental clean-up of the former Parker Seal plant in Berea. The Brownfields Program grant was secured from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Kentucky River Foothills Development Council Inc. (KRFDC) in partnership with Fahe in Berea. Located at 103 Lewis Street, the Parker Seal building is said to be contaminated with trichloroethene and debris that remained after the plant closed in 2001. The Brownfields Program provides EPA funding for cleanup and reuse of contaminated properties.”

TWEETS ...

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From: Lincoln Ferguson (EPA)
Sent: Mon 6/12/2017 1:38:33 PM
Subject: United States Resets Climate Change Discussion At G7

United States Resets Climate Change Discussion At G7

U.S. Formally Joins Communiqué, Reaching Consensus On Important Environmental Issues

June 12, 2017

Bologna, Italy – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that the United States stands firm on its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and has reset the conversation about climate change reflective of the new priorities of the Trump Administration and the expectations of the American people.

"Respective of the importance to engage with longstanding allies and key international partners, we approached the climate discussions head on from a position of strength and clarity. We are resetting the dialogue to say Paris is not the only way forward to making progress. Today's action of reaching consensus makes clear that the Paris Agreement is not the only mechanism by which environmental stewardship can be demonstrated. It also demonstrates our commitment to honest conversations, which are the cornerstone of constructive international dialogue, " said Administrator Scott Pruitt.

While a party to the communiqué, the United States did not join the climate change sections, explicitly stating:

We the United States of America continue to demonstrate through action, having reduced our CO2 footprint as demonstrated by achieving pre-1994 CO2 levels domestically. The United States will continue to engage with key international partners in a manner that is consistent with our domestic priorities, preserving both a strong economy and a healthy environment. Accordingly, we the United States do not join those sections of the communiqué on climate and MDBs, reflecting our recent announcement to withdraw and immediately cease implementation of the Paris Agreement and associated financial commitment.

The United States and its G7 counterparts found common ground engaging in robust and constructive dialogue regarding other, equally important environmental issues. The United States joined consensus throughout the communiqué including the sections discussing resource efficiency, marine litter, and environmental policies and jobs.

"The United States will continue to show leadership by offering action-oriented solutions to the world's environmental challenges. We have indicated a willingness to engage on an international stage that stands to greatly benefit from American ingenuity, innovation, and advanced technologies. We have already demonstrated significant progress towards mitigating environmental problems and we will continue to develop these for the benefit of all

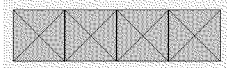
nations," Administrator Pruitt said.

BACKGROUND ...

G7 Bologna Environment Ministers' Meeting: Communiqué

"We, the G7 Environment Ministers and high representatives, and European Commissioners responsible for environment and climate, met in Bologna on 11-12 June 2017. We were joined by heads and senior officials of International Organizations and by representatives of universities and firms." (G7 Bologna Environment Ministers' Meeting, 06/12/17)

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Sat 8/19/2017 7:52:06 PM
Subject: The New York Times & Chlorpyrifos

Good Morning -

After a monumental mistake where the New York Times was caught peddling false information, they're at it again.

Last night, the New York Times' Eric Lipton and Roni Rabin reported on false facts about the EPA's decision not to ban the pesticide Chlorpyrifos and the decision to continue the review regarding the pesticide.

Specifically speaking, they left out that the EPA's decision was upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

They also took the drastic decision of omitting words from the EPA's one-sentence statement in response to their story that reminded Americans that the USDA had scientific concerns about banning this pesticide. Additionally, three days before President Trump's inauguration, the Obama Administration's USDA strongly opposed banning this pesticide.

Given that the New York Times never lets the truth get in the way of a good story, below is our official statement that was provided to them, along with some inconvenient facts that their story left out.

"Taking emails out of context doesn't change the fact that we continue to examine the science surrounding chlorpyifos, while taking into account USDA's scientific concerns with methodology used by the previous administration." - EPA spokesman, Amy Graham

BACKGROUND …

Despite having 8 years to review the petition on chlorpyrifos, the Obama Administration never banned Chlorpyrifos. "The EPA considered whether to ban it for roughly a decade before Trump appointed EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, a Republican from Oklahoma, to lead the agency." (Reuters, 07/25/17)

The EPA is still reviewing Chlorpyrifos. "The agency said it was still reviewing the chemical's registration." (Reuters, 07/25/17)

San Francisco-based 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rejects greens' appeal of EPA decision not to ban pesticide. "A federal appeals court rejected a request from environmental groups to overturn the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision not to restrict the controversial pesticide chlorpyrifos." (The Hill, 07/18/17)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture supported the EPA's action. "'This is a welcome decision grounded in evidence and science,' said Sheryl Kunickis, director of the Office of Pest Management Policy at USDA. 'It means that this important pest management tool will remain available to growers, helping to ensure an abundant and affordable food supply for this nation and the world. This frees American farmers from significant trade disruptions that could have been caused by an

unnecessary, unilateral revocation of chlorpyrifos tolerances in the United States. It is also great news for consumers, who will continue to have access to a full range of both domestic and imported fruits and vegetables. We thank our colleagues at EPA for their hard work.'" (Food Safety News, 03/31/17)

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture also objected to Obama's EPA methodology. "Similarly, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture also objected to EPA's methodology. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) also expressed concerns with regard to EPA's previous reliance on certain data the agency had used to support its proposal to ban the pesticide." (Food Safety News, 03/31/17)

The Washington Post: New York Times guilty of large screw-up on climate-change story. "The New York Times on Wednesday appended a correction to a story about a climate change study: Correction: August 9, 2017 -- An article on Tuesday about a sweeping federal climate change report referred incorrectly to the availability of the report. While it was not widely publicized, the report was uploaded by the nonprofit Internet Archive in January; it was not first made public by The New York Times. That correction, which sits at the foot of the story, dutifully straightens out the record. Yet given the magnitude of the screw-up, it should sit atop the story, surrounded by red flashing lights and perhaps an audio track to instruct readers: Warning: This story once peddled a faulty and damaging premise." (The Washington Post, 08/09/17)

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Sent: Fri 6/9/2017 7:41:13 PM
Subject: EPA's Weekly Round-Up For 06/09/17

EPA's Weekly Round-Up

From discussing how President Trump's decision to leave the Paris Accord puts America First, to announcing brownfield grants and clearing out the chemical backlog it's been a successful week at the EPA.

NATIONAL NEWS …

On ABC's This Week, Pruitt discussed how small businesses across the country are celebrating President Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris accord. "Well, when you look at, even The New York Times had an article, I think, within the last couple of days that talked about small business celebrating, euphoria with respect to the president's decision."

On Fox News Sunday, Pruitt explained how the U.S. is the energy technology leader of the world and that if China and India want to reduce their CO2 footprint, they should follow us. "If China and India want to reduce their CO2 footprint, they should learn from us," Pruitt told Fox News' Chris Wallace."

Administrator Scott Pruitt was on MSNBC's Morning Joe where he said the Paris Accord put our economy at a disadvantage. "When you look at what was agreed to in Paris, it put this country, our country at a disadvantage economically."

Breitbart reports that Pruitt was on SiriusXM radio where he said the Paris Accord would have driven more regulation through litigation. "Regulation through litigation, if you will, which, I think, is an abuse of executive authority, an abuse of the rulemaking process," Pruitt said."

The Huffington Post reports that President Trump's EPA is doing a good job at regulating new chemicals. "The Environmental Protection Agency plans by next month to clear its backlog of hundreds of new chemicals waiting to be deemed safe enough to sell to the public."

- **Additionally, Scientist Richard Denison penned an op-ed for the Environmental Defense Fund saying the EPA has made enormous progress regarding the chemical backlog.** "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday updated its website to provide a current snapshot of the status of new chemical reviews it has been conducting under last year's amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The statistics show that, despite being faced immediately with a substantial increase in responsibilities and workload as

a result of the major changes made to TSCA, EPA has made enormous progress in implementing the new requirements."

The Washington Free Beacon reports that the EPA is responding to inquiries from Senate EPW Committee in a timely manner. "The Environmental Protection Agency has responded to half of a Senate oversight committee's information requests, undermining a top Democrat's claim that he is blocking nominees because the agency has not answered his letters."

- **Additionally, the Washington Examiner reports the EPA has been incredibly responsive to inquires received for the Senate EPW Committee.** "Normally, that's a perfectly reasonable way for the Senate to exercise oversight of a stonewalling administrative agency. Except that's not happening. According to EPA records shared with the Washington Examiner, the agency has received 20 letters from Carper, responded to 10 already, and just mailed another Friday."

The Daily Caller reports that the Trump Administration delayed one of the most expensive EPA regulations ever. "The Trump administration announced Tuesday evening it would delay the implementation of a smog rule that's been called one of the costliest clean air regulations ever."

- **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell applauded the EPA's move to delay this rule.** "I applaud Administrator Scott Pruitt for his decision to delay this Obama Administration issued regulation, which was finalized in October 2015."

- **Additionally, members of the House Western Caucus praised the EPA for their action.** "When pristine national parks like the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Rocky Mountain are in danger of being in nonattainment under the proposed Obama standard, there is a serious problem with the numbers," said Chairman Paul Gosar. "I am glad to see common sense finally prevail at the EPA with the announcement that the agency is postponing and reevaluating the job-killing Ozone Rule promulgated by President Obama."

TO THE STATES ...

In Georgia, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that the EPA awards Atlanta with $300,000 for the community-wide brownfield cleanup activity. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently selected the city of Atlanta to receive a brownfields revolving loan fund grant totaling $300,000. This is in addition to the more than $1.7 million in grant funding for community-wide brownfields assessment activities and cleanup planning that seven communities in Georgia were selected to receive on May 31."

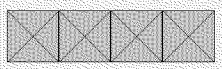
In Indiana, the Greensburg Daily News reports that the EPA has given $475,000 for potential brownfield assessments. "The Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (SIRPC) will receive a $475,000 grant to investigate environmental conditions at vacant and unused properties with redevelopment potential in the Greensburg industrial commercial district as well as other locations in the state, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials said."

In Texas, the Gilmer Mirror reports that students from Pearland received the President's Environmental Youth Award. *"Teenagers from Pearland, Katy and Houston, Texas, are*

among the national winners of the 2016 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality's President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA)."

In Utah, NPR Utah reports that Pruitt is giving flexibility to comply with this regulation from the Obama Administration. "Federal regulators are giving states like Utah another year to sort out their ozone-pollution solutions. The U-S Environmental Protection Agency is extending a deadline for states that are have been poised to write ozone cleanup plans. … EPA's Pruitt said he wants more "flexibility" for communities struggling with ozone, and he's creating a task force to review the ozone limits set during the Obama administration."

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Sent: Fri 10/20/2017 6:18:20 PM
Subject: EPA Chief: Under Trump, Agency Is Like Never Before

THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE

EPA Chief: Under Trump, Agency Is Like Never Before

Alex Stuckey
October 20, 2017
http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/EPA-chief-Under-Trump-agency-is-like-never-12292376.php

Environmental Protection Agency Chief Scott Pruitt gave a succinct message to oil and gas industry leaders Thursday night: The Trump administration's agency will be nothing like the last.

President Donald Trump and his cabinet members are "focused on results and that's been the primary focus of my first months at the EPA," Pruitt said. "We're establishing metrics and benchmarks and performance standards in key areas of what we do."

Pruitt spoke Thursday night during the Texas Oil and Gas Association's annual Lone Star Energy Forum in The Woodlands, answering questions for about 30 minutes from the association's president, Todd Staples.

As an example of quick action, he pointed to the San Jacinto Waste Pits. After years of waiting for the area to be cleaned up, Pruitt said, he came in mid-September and promised an answer by Oct. 14. On Oct. 11, the EPA approved a plan to permanently remove tons of toxics from the waste pits.

'Getting back to basics'

Prior to his discussion Thursday night, Pruitt said he met with community members and environmental advocates about the San Jacinto Waste Pits. He said they were thanking him for acting quickly.

"We're getting back to basics, focused on our core mission, focused on results," he said.

Earlier in the day, about a dozen environmental advocates gathered at the old Brady's Landing restaurant to protest Pruitt's appearance at the association's meeting. Pruitt, they said, should take a "toxic tour" of their neighborhoods, rather than speak to oil and gas leaders.

During Thursday's talk, Pruitt talked about working with Trump - whom he called a courageous man of action - as well as his plans to act faster on Superfund site and permitting decisions.

Staples questioned Pruitt about the clean power plan, which Pruitt decided to withdraw earlier this month. Pruitt said he believed the last administration used it to start a war on coal or fossil fuels.

"I don't believe it's the role of the EPA to pick winners and losers," he said. "I don't think it's the role of the EPA to say here's what you should choose … they should use all forms of electricity … based upon what? Stability and costs."

Pruitt said the agency is evaluating its options to replace the plan under current law, but cannot do anything Congress has not already authorized it to do.

"Our job is to follow the law, we can't make it up," he said. "That was novel to the last administration, it's fundamental to this administration."

This has caused regulatory and financial uncertainty both in the energy and health care sectors, he said.

"The greatest impact on the low percentage of growth is regulatory uncertainty because you have regulators acting in ways that's untethered to statute," he said.

Partnerships sought

He also noted his agency's commitment to a transparent rule-making process that involves the public and not the courts. Pruitt also spoke about the importance of partnership between all environmental stakeholders, including the energy industry.

…

He noted energy industry leaders care about the water they drink and the air they breathe.

"Are there bad actors out there? Absolutely," he said. "We're going to prosecute bad actors, but we shouldn't start by saying (certain people) don't care about these issues. You do."

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 10/12/2017 4:49:09 PM
Subject: EPA Appoints Jim Gulliford as Region 7 Administrator

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Appoints Jim Gulliford as Region 7 Administrator

WASHINGTON (October 12, 2017) –Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Jim Gulliford of Missouri to become regional administrator for Region 7. Mr. Gulliford will oversee environmental protection efforts in: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. He previously held the position of regional administrator for Region 7 from 2001-2006.

Jim Gulliford most recently held the position of executive director of the Soil and Water Conservation Society where he led the organization from 2009-2016. He was responsible for all operation aspects of the non-profit organization that advocated for conservation professionals and for science-based conservation practices, programs, and policy. The organization's mission is to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation on working land – land used to produce food, fiber, and other services that improve the quality of life people experience in rural and urban communities.

Prior to joining Soil and Water Conservation Society, Mr. Gulliford spent nearly a decade at EPA. From 2006-2009, he served as EPA assistant administrator for the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances where he was responsible for helping protect public health and the environment from potential risks of pesticides and chemicals. Mr. Gulliford also served as director of the Division of Soil Conservation at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for 15 years, where he was responsible for the development and management of soil conservation, water quality, and mine regulation for the state if Iowa.

"Jim Gulliford is unquestionably qualified to lead EPA Region 7," **said EPA Administration Scott Pruitt**. "Not only has Jim dedicated his entire career to protecting the environment and ensuring healthier outcomes for Americans, but he has already demonstrated to be a competent leader for Region 7 during the Bush Administration."

His nomination is receiving high accolades from across the region:

Joel Brinkmeyer, CEO, Agribusiness Association of Iowa: "The selection of Jim Gulliford for EPA's Region 7 Administrator is a great choice by this administration in their efforts to accelerate environmental advancement while enhancing production agriculture. Jim will be able to immediately step up to meet the challenges of the office due to his past successful leadership experience in this same position during the Bush Administration, followed by his experience in Washington DC in the office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances at EPA, and as the CEO for the National Soil and Water Conservation Society. Jim has tremendous understanding of how soil and water resources can best benefit production agriculture, and enhance high quality food production without damaging the environment. In fact, Jim understands that with the right tools and resources, positive impacts can be made to the environment as agriculture continues to improve the technology of modern food production systems. Jim's strong network of midwestern leaders and the scientific community, combined with his positive work ethic, will enhance working relationships with persons of diverse interests to the benefit of urban and rural citizens alike.

"I look forward to working with Administrator Gulliford through the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, and our members, to bring positive solutions to environmental and production challenges."

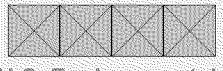
Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality: "EPA Region 7 will be well served by the appointment of Jim Gulliford. Jim is a strong leader in conservation and will bring a voice of reason and cooperation for Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. Nebraska DEQ is ready to work with Jim Gulliford to further improve Federal and State relationships in the true spirit of cooperative federalism."

Rex Martin, Chairman of the Board, Soil and Water Conservation Society: "I have been very fortunate to have worked with Jim for many years including his former roles as EPA Region 7 Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA and as the Executive Director at the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Jim has been successful at applying practical environmental practices on the ground based on sound science while allowing local stakeholder's real world input to drive those activities. Jim's strong work ethic, integrity and transparency makes him an excellent choice for this leadership role."

Steve Taylor, President and Executive Director, Missouri Agribusiness Association: "I am extremely pleased that Jim Gulliford is returning as administrator of EPA Region 7. Over the past three decades, I have worked with Jim on a variety of issues and projects involving water quality and agriculture. Over these years, Jim has been a valuable partner and he has understood the need to keep agriculture profitable as we protected the environment. I look forward to once again working with Jim on the environmental issues that face agriculture today."

Dr. Wendy Wintersteen, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University: "Jim Gulliford brings a tremendous portfolio of knowledge, experience and highly competent leadership to the position of EPA Region 7 Administrator. His previous service on behalf of EPA allows him to step in and begin the vital responsibilities of the position immediately. Jim understands the complexity of environmental issues and the importance of collaboration and communication with partners and stakeholders. He leads with science to guide and ground his work, and that is a common foundation we share in how progress is made."

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Subject: EPA approves San Jacinto Waste Pits cleanup plan

EPA Approves San Jacinto Waste Pits Cleanup Plan

WATCH FOX 26: EPA Approves San Jacinto Waste Pits Cleanup Plan

FOX 26 Houston: "'I want to thank EPA Administrator Pruitt for this decision,' said Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan. 'We appreciate that he visited the San Jacinto site personally and that he had EPA personnel checking it out to discover the dioxin exposure after the hurricane.' 'The hard work by County Attorney Vince Ryan and his staff has been remarkable. Jackie Young, Galveston Bay Foundation and other activists have been relentless in advocating for this solution and I'm thrilled the EPA made the right decision,' said Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman." (Fox 26 Houston, 10/11/17)

WATCH KHOU-TV: EPA Approves Plan To Clean Up San Jacinto Waste Pits

KHOU NEWS: "'Young said this is a far better solution than the temporary caps on top of the waste pits now -- a site Young and her family moved away from because of the health hazards. I've heard many people including my own father say I won't live to see this, and that was one of the best phone calls I got to make today -- calling my dad,' [Environmental advocate Jackie] Young said." (KHOU News, 10/11/17)

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Subject: TIME: "I Don't Spend Any Time With Polluters. I Prosecute Polluters." - Scott Pruitt

Pruitt: "I Don't Spend Any Time With Polluters. I Prosecute Polluters."

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TIME MAGAZINE

"I Don't Spend Any Time With Polluters. I Prosecute Polluters." - Scott Pruitt

Click Here To Watch The Video

Justin Worland
Time Magazine
October 20, 2017
http://time.com/4990060/scott-pruitt-interview-epa-schedule-meetings/

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency defended his meetings with energy companies, chemical manufacturers, automakers and other industry groups, arguing that they were "stakeholders" not "polluters."

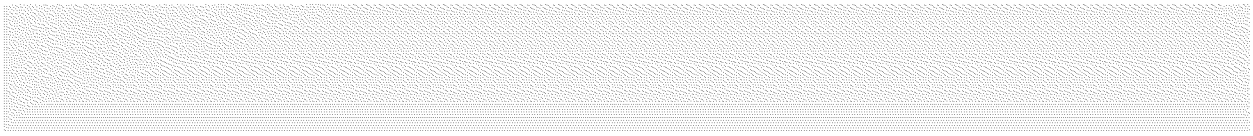
In an exclusive interview with TIME on Oct. 18, former Oklahoma attorney general Scott Pruitt argued that the recent criticism of his schedule, which showed he met with environmental groups less than 1% of the time, was inaccurate.

"I don't spend any time with polluters. I prosecute polluters," says Pruitt. "What I'm spending time with are stakeholders who care about outcomes. I think it's a wrong premise. It's Washington D.C.-think to look at folks across the country—from states to citizens to farmers and ranchers, industry in general—and say they are evil or wrong and we're not going to partner with them."

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 9/13/2017 4:04:35 PM
Subject: Pruitt Discusses His Back-To-Basics Agenda With The Washington Examiner

Pruitt Discusses His Back-To-Basics Agenda With The Washington Examiner

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Scott Pruitt Criticizes Obama As 'Environmental Savior'
Moves EPA Away From Climate Change
Josh Siegel
September 13, 2017
http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/scott-pruitt-criticizes-obama-as-environmental-savior-moves-epa-away-from-climate-change/article/2634253

Few Trump administration agency chiefs have moved as decisively to implement an agenda as Scott Pruitt, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and he's quite clear about what he wants to do.

He calls it a "back to the basics" agenda, removing the government from what he considers extraneous activity — namely, the climate change battle taken up by former President Barack Obama, who he questioned as an "environmental savior."

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 10/10/2017 4:30:03 PM
Subject: EPA Proposes Repeal Of Clean Power Plan

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Takes Another Step To Advance President Trump's America First Strategy, Proposes Repeal Of "Clean Power Plan"

WASHINGTON (October 10, 2017) – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), proposing to repeal the so-called "Clean Power Plan (CPP)." After reviewing the CPP, EPA has proposed to determine that the Obama-era regulation exceeds the Agency's statutory authority. Repealing the CPP will also facilitate the development of U.S. energy resources and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens associated with the development of those resources, in keeping with the principles established in President Trump's Executive Order on Energy Independence.

"The Obama administration pushed the bounds of their authority so far with the CPP that the Supreme Court issued a historic stay of the rule, preventing its devastating effects to be imposed on the American people while the rule is being challenged in court," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.** "We are committed to righting the wrongs of the Obama administration by cleaning the regulatory slate. Any replacement rule will be done carefully, properly, and with humility, by listening to all those affected by the rule."

CPP Appears to be Inconsistent with the Clean Air Act

The CPP, issued by the Obama administration, was premised on a novel and expansive view of Agency authority that the Trump administration now proposes to determine is inconsistent with the Clean Air Act. In fact, the CPP was put on hold in February 2016, when the U.S. Supreme Court issued an unprecedented, historic stay of the rule.

"EPA will respect the limits of statutory authority. The CPP ignored states' concerns and eroded longstanding and important partnerships that are a necessary part of achieving positive environmental outcomes. We can now assess whether further regulatory action is warranted; and, if so, what is the most appropriate path forward, consistent with the Clean Air Act and principles of cooperative federalism," **said Administrator Pruitt.**

The CPP was issued pursuant to a novel and expansive view of authority under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The CPP required regulated entities to take actions "outside the fence line." Traditionally, EPA Section 111 rules were based on measures that could be applied to, for, and at a particular facility, also referred to as "inside the fence line" measures. Prior to the CPP being issued, every single Section 111 rule on the books, including a handful of existing source rules and around 100 new-source rules, obeyed this limit. As the CPP departed from this traditional limit on EPA's authority under an "inside the fence line" interpretation, EPA is proposing to repeal it.

EPA has now sent the NPRM to the Federal Register for publication. Upon publication, the public will have 60 days to submit comments.

The repeal package includes:

1. The "preamble," which lays out the proposed legal interpretation, policy implications, and a summary of the cost-benefits analysis of the proposed repeal; and
2. The "Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA)," an in-depth cost-benefit technical analysis.

CPP Repeal Saves up to $33 Billion in Avoided Costs in 2030

The proposed repeal both examines the Obama administration's cost-benefit analysis, as well as provides insights to support an updated analysis of the environmental, health, and economic effects of the proposed repeal. The Trump administration estimates the proposed repeal could provide up to $33 billion in avoided compliance costs in 2030.

The previous administration's estimates and analysis of these costs and benefits was, in multiple areas, highly uncertain and/or controversial. Specific areas of controversy and/or uncertainty in the Obama administration's analysis of CPP include:

- **Domestic versus global climate benefits:** The previous administration compared U.S. costs to an estimate of supposed global benefits, and failed to follow well-established economic procedures in estimating those benefits.

- **"Co-benefits" from non-greenhouse-gas pollutants:** The Obama administration relied heavily on reductions in other pollutants emitted by power plants, essentially hiding the true net cost of the CPP by claiming benefits from reducing pollutants that had nothing to do with the rule's stated purpose.

- **Energy cost and savings accounting:** The Obama administration counted "energy efficiency" results of their rule as an avoided cost, resulting in a cost estimate being considerably lower than it would have been if they used the appropriate practice of considering these effects as benefits, rather than subtracting them from costs. Had the Obama administration used the Office of Management and Budget's longstanding requirements and accounted cost and savings accordingly, it would have presented a more accurate accounting of the total cost of the CPP.

In this proposed repeal and its accompanying technical documents, this administration is, in a robust, open, and transparent way, presenting a wide range of analysis scenarios to the public.

As part of the notice-and-comment process for this proposed repeal, EPA will continue this analysis and inform the public, as necessary, to get feedback on new modeling and other information. The final action on this proposed repeal will address the results of this ongoing work.

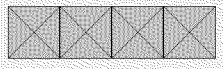
Forthcoming is an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) that will be reflective of a thoughtful and responsible approach to regulatory action grounded within the authority provided by the statute.

"With this action, the Trump administration is respecting states' role and reinstating transparency into how we protect our environment," **said Administrator Pruitt.**

Background:

On March 28, President Trump signed an Executive Order on Energy Independence, establishing a national policy in favor of energy independence, economic growth, and the rule of law. The purpose of the Executive Order (EO) is to facilitate the development of U.S. energy resources and to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens associated with the development of those resources. That same day, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signed four Federal Register notices in response to the EO, including a formal announcement of review of the Clean Power Plan. After substantial review, the Agency has proposed to determine that the Clean Power Plan (CPP) must be repealed.

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 6/29/2017 10:45:02 AM
Subject: Pruitt Corrects Course on Obama-Era Water Regulation

National Review

Pruitt Corrects Course on Obama-Era Water Regulation

National Review
The Editors
June 28, 2017
http://www.nationalreview.com/article/449059/scott-pruitt-water-regulation-rollback-epa-restoration-rule-law

Scott Pruitt is not so much shaking things up at the EPA as restoring order, as with his decision to rescind the "Waters of the United States" rule — WOTUS, inevitably — which purported to expand the application of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and empower the federal government to regulate essentially any standing body of water and the lands adjacent to it. If you are wondering how bonkers the EPA was willing to be in its interpretation, consider that WOTUS would have applied to wet grass, if the grass had been wet enough.

WOTUS's enforcement already had been suspended by the federal courts, and it will not be missed.

WOTUS had very little to do with clean water. In the words of Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, "It was a federal land grab designed to put a straitjacket on farming and private businesses across this nation. That's why our federal courts blocked it from going into effect for the past two years."

WOTUS is a textbook example of federal mission creep. For years, "waters of the United States" were defined as navigable interstate and coastal waterways, that "are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce."

Under the Obama administration, the EPA expanded the definition of waters under its regulatory jurisdiction to include any body of water that might possibly be used in interstate commerce: For example, a cow pond used to water livestock producing meat that might eventually be sold across state lines became, under the new rules, "jurisdictional," as though it were the Erie Canal or the Everglades. The Army Corps of Engineers language communicates the absurdity of this, describing federal jurisdiction over "mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds," in addition to the familiar navigable waterways.

Wet meadows.

In addition to eliminating WOTUS, the EPA will be reconsidering its definition of which waters are subject to regulation under the CWA, as it should. The EPA is a problem, one resulting from the interaction of two lamentable tendencies in contemporary American government. The first is the elevation of narrowly ideological environmentalism over ordinary quality-of-life concerns such as reducing air pollution and ensuring clean water for drinking and recreational purposes.

For about 25 years, radical environmentalists and responsible environmentalists competed for influence in the major advocacy organizations and, inevitably, in government. The radicals won, and the environmental movement today is not preoccupied with smog or waste-dumping in rivers but instead is engaged in a jihad against capitalism and modern standards of living. There is no oil pipeline that it will not attempt to sabotage, no coal-export depot that it will not attempt to paralyze through litigation, no new recreational use of wilderness areas that it will not attempt to suffocate.

That much should have become obvious during the fight over the Keystone XL pipeline: No environmental easement or precautionary measure was ever going to be enough to satisfy Keystone's opponents, because they oppose oil pipelines per se. That ideology is dominant within the EPA as well, which is why giving the agency an open-ended mandate to regulate irrigation ditches in Nebraska, far from any legitimately interstate or international concern, is a mistake.

The second part of the EPA problem is the out-of-control substitution of agency regulation for statutes passed by Congress. As with health-care policy and much else that is defective in our public policy, environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act have been effectively converted into a series of enabling acts, "the secretary shall" and "the secretary may," creating an enormous body of onerous and sometimes contradictory administrative law enacting federal policies far removed from the substance of the laws actually passed by the democratically elected lawmakers accountable to the people. The federal bureaucrats enjoy their immunity to democratic accountability, and Congress, alas, enjoys shifting its accountability to the unaccountable.

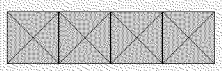
EPA administrator Scott Pruitt has expressed his desire to restore something like the rule of law at the agency, reining in its more ambitious and expansive interpretations of the laws passed by Congress and — radical thought! — hewing instead to what the law actually says, providing what Pruitt describes as "regulatory certainty" to businesses and citizens.

The usual ninnies are shrieking in the expected hysterical fashion. But the fact is, no one is in favor of water or air pollution. At question is whether we ought to treat a wet meadow in Oklahoma the same way we treat Lake Tahoe when it comes to federal regulation, whether the mission of the EPA is, as advertised, environmental protection, or whether it is to be deputized to lead an ideological jihad against modern industrial capitalism. Also at question is whether our laws are going to be made by our elected lawmakers or by unelected administrators in Washington.

Pruitt has chosen wisely here, and has much more work to do in the same vein.

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 9/28/2017 2:32:10 PM
Subject: EPA Announces Appointment of Pete Lopez to Region 2 Administrator

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Announces Appointment of Pete Lopez to Region 2 Administrator

WASHINGTON (September 28, 2017) –Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Pete Lopez of New York to become Regional Administrator for Region 2. Mr. Lopez will oversee environmental protection efforts in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Pete Lopez has served as a member of the New York State Assembly since 2007 representing a seven county region including Mid-Hudson, Northern Catskills, Southern Tier, and Capital District. Mr. Lopez is currently a member on the New York Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation and a member of the Task Force on Food, Farm and Nutrition Policy where he has worked to provide proper oversight of New York's health and environment. While serving as a state legislator, Mr. Lopez has worked tirelessly to collaborate in developing and passing the state budget and promoting growth and opportunity for New Yorkers.

"Pete Lopez has spent nearly a decade in one of the country's largest state legislatures working to improve the quality of life of his constituents," **said Administrator Pruitt**. "His familiarity with the region and his experience working to solve environmental problems in New York will be invaluable in helping EPA serve Americans in the Northeast and the Caribbean."

His nomination is receiving high accolades from across the region:

Ladan Alomar, Executive Director of Centro Civico: "Pete Lopez, for more than two decades, has made substantial contributions to improving lives of families in our region; we applaud him for his unconditional commitment to communities that he serves and congratulate him for his appointment to become EPA Regional Administrator."

John Bartow, Executive Director of the Empire State Forest Products Association: "Pete Lopez has been a strong supporter of New York's forests and the forest products industry for several decades. He brings a broad understanding of the importance of sustainably managing natural resources while also meeting the needs of communities and local economies based on those resources. Pete will be a great asset to EPA and its responsibilities in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands."

Peter A. Baynes, Executive Director of the New York State Conference of Mayors: "In his time as a local official and then as a State Assemblyman, Pete Lopez has been widely recognized as a true public servant: hard-working, responsive, and a problem solver. NYCOM is pleased to know that Pete will now have the opportunity to demonstrate that same dedication in his new capacity with the EPA, working collaboratively with city and village officials to protect the environment and enhance the quality-of-life in our communities."

Mike Elmendorf, President & CEO of the Associated General Contractors of New York State: "We congratulate Administrator Pruitt on his appointment of Assemblyman Pete Lopez as EPA

Regional Administrator for Region 2. Pete Lopez is a proven leader and public servant, and we are confident that he will effectively balance responsible stewardship of our environmental resources with economic development, timely decision making and the need for streamlining our regulatory and permitting processes. We look forward to working with Assemblyman Lopez in his new role."

Gavin Donohue, President and CEO of the Independent Power Producers of New York: "In Pete's time with the Assembly, he took a balanced approach to energy and environmental policy. In the days after Hurricane Sandy, he had a pulse for what his local community needed and made sure those needs were met responsibly from an environmental standpoint. He will be a credit to the EPA, and independent power producers look forward to working with him."

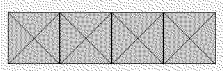
David Fisher, New York Farm Bureau President: "New York Farm Bureau has had a long, positive working relationship with Pete Lopez. He understands the needs of the agricultural community and the important role farmers play in environmental stewardship. We look forward to working with him in his new position as Regional EPA Director. Together, we can successfully safeguard our natural resources while balancing the economic and regulatory challenges that farmers face."

Gerry Geist, Executive Director of Association of Towns of the State of New York: "As a former town supervisor and dedicated public servant, Assemblyman Pete Lopez has consistently found a way to help people by tackling difficult issues and looking for innovative solutions. We look forward to working with Mr. Lopez in his new role as EPA Region II Administrator to help town officials fund and maintain local water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure."

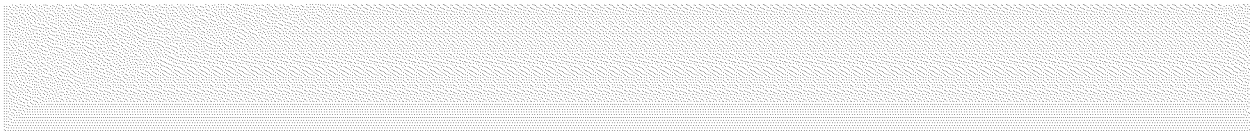
Bob Martin, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner: "Congratulations to New York Assemblyman Pete Lopez on being named EPA Region 2 Regional Administrator. Assemblyman Lopez has an impressive background in public service and I congratulate Administrator Pruitt on naming someone with the Assemblyman's record of accomplishment and leadership to this important post. I have had the chance to talk with Assemblyman Lopez and found that he has a strong commitment to protecting the environment, and especially, to working closely with the states and territories within his region. I am looking forward to working with him and the staff of dedicated professionals in EPA Region 2 as we continue to pursue our shared mission of protecting New Jersey's environment."

Anne Reynolds, Executive Director of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York: "We congratulate Assemblyman Pete Lopez on this important U.S. EPA appointment. New York has a long-standing and bipartisan tradition of environmental and clean energy leadership, and as a New Yorker, Assemblyman Lopez has experienced first-hand the impacts of severe storms and climate change. We look forward to working with Mr. Lopez as he continues this tradition, uses his well-respected skills at facilitation and problem-solving, and works to protects the air, water, and land of EPA Region 2."

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Sent: Mon 11/27/2017 3:15:00 PM
Subject: Scott Pruitt on a mission to change the culture of the EPA

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USA TODAY

Scott Pruitt On A Mission To Change The Culture Of The EPA

Ledyard King
November 26, 2017
https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/11/26/scott-pruitt-mission-change-culture-epa/889633001/

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt isn't just dismantling the Clean Power Plan and other high-profile environmental programs of the Obama era. He's on a mission to re-engineer the agency's culture by returning power to states and away from the Washington bureaucrats and coastal elites he said have led it astray.

The EPA, for example, is doing away with the "sue-and-settle" approach that Pruitt said improperly allowed the Obama administration to circumvent laws by rewriting regulations behind closed doors with friendly environmental groups who filed lawsuits.

The agency also has rewritten membership rules for the agency's advisory boards, so that both industry advocates and academics from Midwestern and Mountain states — which Pruitt said were under-represented — have greater influence when counseling agency leaders on new rules.

...

Ken Cuccinelli, a Pruitt ally and former Republican attorney general from Virginia, said the EPA administrator rightly believes the agency needs to return to its roots and abandon quixotic pursuits Obama conducted on global warming embodied by the Clean Power Plan and the decision to sign on to the international treaty known as the Paris Accord.

"The previous administration weaponized this agency," Cuccinelli said. "They were assaulting America through the EPA. Scott believes in clean water and clean air. There's never been any doubt about that. But all of the other creative stuff is the kind of stuff that political elites want to spend their time on and if it affects Americans all it does is reduce their opportunities."

...

As part of his effort to change the culture at EPA, Pruitt is touting a "back-to-basics " agenda that emphasizes partnerships with states and issues he calls central to the agency's mission when Congress created it in 1970.

He's prioritizing cleanup of toxic Superfund sites, lead-tainted drinking water systems, and abandoned mines.

Those issues, he said, took a back seat the previous eight years as the Obama administration engaged in regulatory over-reach on climate change and the "Waters of the U.S." rule that spelled out that streams, rivers and other bodies can be regulated by the federal government.

"Our job is to administer statutes," he said in the interview. "We have to act based on the authority given to us by Congress. When this agency and other agencies in the past have gone askew is when they've created and filled in the vacuum. That's what they did with the Clean Power Plan ... We're correcting that."

Pruitt points to Superfund as an area that previous administrators should have taken more time to address. He's visited a lead-contaminated site in East Chicago, Ind., and the Gold King mine in Colorado (where a mistake by an EPA contractor in 2015 led to a major spill) to emphasize the program's importance.

He often talks about the problems at the West Lake Landfill near St. Louis and how the EPA still hasn't decided how to proceed 27 years after it was tagged as a Superfund site.

"Not clean it up. Not fix the problem. But just simply decide," he told the Federalist Society.

More than half of the original 406 sites from 1983 remain on the list. On average, it takes about 19 years for a site to be removed from the list, according to to the Government Accountability Office.

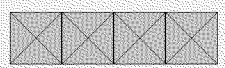
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When Pruitt last month told an audience of coal miners in Hazard, Ky., that "the war on coal is over" as he announced the administration's plan to repeal the Clean Power Plan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., seemed clearly tickled.

"It's great to have an administrator of the EPA," McConnell said as he introduced Pruitt, "who's not afraid to come to Kentucky."

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Subject: ICYMI: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Visits Gold King

In Case You Missed It ...

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Visits Gold King

The Durango Herald: EPA chief tours Gold King Mine. "[Durango City Councilors Dean] Brookie told the Herald afterward that Pruitt seemed to have a good understanding of the reality and expanse of the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund area, which spans 48 mining-related sites in the Animas watershed. Brookie said Pruitt repeatedly expressed 'total commitment' to continue to fund the cleanup and reassured the group that the area is atop his list of priorities. 'It seemed they were here to express their desire to do this comprehensively and expeditiously,' Brookie said. 'And I don't think it was a token visit for political purposes of any kind.'" (The Durango Herald, 08/04/17)

The Denver Post: Scott Pruitt says EPA "walked away" from Colorado after Gold King spill, commits to making Silverton clean-up a priority. "Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt says his agency "walked away" from Colorado after the Gold King Mine spill under the Obama administration, vowing Friday to make a federal cleanup of the Gold King and other abandoned mines around Silverton a priority." (The Denver Post, 08/04/17)

Reuters: EPA to review previously denied claims from Colorado mine spill. "The Obama administration 'failed' the public when it rejected damages sought by local governments, businesses and others affected by the spill at the Gold King Mine, Pruitt said in a statement. 'EPA should be held to the same standard as those we regulate,' he said. 'A new review is paramount to ensure that those who have, in fact, suffered losses have a fair opportunity to have their claims heard.'" (Reuters, 08/04/17)

The Colorado Springs Gazette: EPA chief Pruitt blasts predecessor as he visits Gold King Mine spill site. "Two years after the Las Animas River was turned a bright yellow from the Gold King Mine spill, Colorado politicians remain confident the federal Environmental Protection Agency will eventually address the contamination. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt toured the mine Friday accompanied by Colorado's U.S. Sens. Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet, Gov. John Hickenlooper and 3rd Congressional District Rep. Scott Tipton. … Durango Mayor Dick White applauded Pruitt for recognizing the Gold King Mine spill cleanup as an environmental priority and vowing to reconsider 79 claimants whose requests were rejected under his predecessor, Gina McCarthy. 'The cleanup is a long process. It won't be done tomorrow. But like the administrator said today during our tour, it is a priority,' White said." (The Colorado Springs Gazette, 08/05/17)

The Salt Lake Tribune: EPA chief to reconsider paying claims over mine waste spill in Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, who toured Gold King Mine with Colorado lawmakers on the eve of the disaster's second anniversary, said he told people to resubmit claims rejected under the Obama administration. It's not clear if the agency could pay on its own or how much of the potential payouts would need to be approved by Congress. The spill sent 3 million

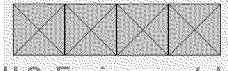
gallons of tainted wastewater from the old gold mine into rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah, causing an estimated $420 million in economic damages. The EPA has designated the area a Superfund site to pay for a broad cleanup." (The Salt Lake Tribune, 08/04/17)

The Washington Examiner: EPA's Scott Pruitt scolds Obama on Gold King Mine spill's two-year anniversary. "Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt marked the two-year anniversary of the Gold King Mine disaster in Colorado on Friday by pointing out how the Obama administration erred in causing the massive 3 million gallons toxic spill. 'We want to make sure things are done right,' Pruitt told local news ahead of touring the mine site. 'If anyone else would have done what the EPA had done under Obama, with respect to this spill, they would have likely been put in jail.'" (The Washington Examiner, 08/04/17)

The Daily Caller: On Gold King Mine Spill Anniversary, EPA's Pruitt Says Obama 'Failed' To Protect The Environment. "The Obama administration and Congress investigated the mine spill, but no employees or contractors have been punished or charged. In fact, The Daily Caller News Foundation's Investigative Group recently learned federal investigators were keeping information on the Gold King Mine probe secret." (The Daily Caller, 08/05/17)

Click Here To Watch EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's Interview On FOX 31 Denver

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 10/11/2017 6:51:12 PM
Subject: Administrator Pruitt Addresses National Tribal Operations Committee

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

Administrator Pruitt Addresses National Tribal Operations Committee

WASHINGTON (October 11, 2017) – Today, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt addressed the National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) where he spoke on the pressing issues facing environmental leaders in Indian country and how best the Agency and tribal leaders can collaborate on their shared goals and challenges.

“EPA is committed to working and partnering with tribal governments to address our shared environmental concerns and challenges,” **said Administrator Pruitt**. “I understand the important role that tribal governments play in environmental management, and the unique government-to-government relationship that tribes have with the federal government. The process that we engage in as co-regulators is very important. I believe that regulations ought to make sense, and part of that is engaging directly with tribal governments --taking comments and consulting with tribal governments, so that we are making informed decisions.”

In 1984, President Regan published the Federal Indian Policy supporting the primary role of tribal governments matters affecting American Indian Reservations. EPA has worked to recognize the importance of tribal governments in regulatory activities to ensure healthy outcomes for American citizens living on Indian Reservations.

"The 1984 EPA Indian Policy is a critical instrument that provides both the EPA and Native American tribes with principles that illustrate the federal trust relationship," **said National Tribal Caucus Chairman Evaristo Cruz**. "On behalf of the National Tribal Caucus we would like to thank Administrator Pruitt for upholding and honoring this legacy that EPA has instituted."

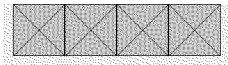
Administrator Pruitt will continue to work with American’s tribal partners and is reaffirming EPA’s 1984 Policy that will continue to advance cooperative federalism within the policy’s principles.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt with members of the National Tribal Caucus.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses the National Tribal Operations Committee.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signs a statement reaffirming the principles of the 1984 EPA Indian Policy with National Tribal Caucus Chairman Evaristo Cruz.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 10/19/2017 11:51:16 PM
Subject: Administrator Pruitt Meets with Superfund Stakeholders in Texas

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

Administrator Pruitt Meets with Superfund Stakeholders in Texas

Holds Meeting with Local Stakeholders; Environmental Groups

HOUSTON (October 19, 2017) – Today, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt met with stakeholders at the Harris County Office who are monitoring cleanup efforts at the San Jacinto Superfund site that is contaminated with highly toxic dioxin. Last week, Administrator Pruitt signed a Record of Decision that approved a $115 million cost-effective cleanup plan of the toxic site that will completely remove highly contaminated material from the site and secure the less contaminated areas. This will also provide overall certainty by permanently addressing the contamination risks instead of capping the site.

Administrator Pruitt visited the San Jacinto Superfund site last month to review Agency response efforts following Hurricane Harvey.

“For nearly a decade, the San Jacinto site has lingered on the national priority list and gone largely ignored,” **said Administrator Pruitt.** “This Agency is committed to helping dispose of these toxic materials in a cost-effective and efficient way to better ensure a healthy and safe environment for nearby residents.”

While in Houston, Administrator Pruitt held a roundtable with EPA officials overseeing the site, local stakeholders, and environmental groups to discuss the cleanup efforts. Attendees included: Acting Regional Administrator for Region 6 Sam Coleman, Texas Health and Environmental Alliance Executive Director Jackie Young, Scott Jones of the Galveston Bay Foundation, Bob Stokes of the Galveston Bay Foundation, Jennifer Ronk of the Houston Advance Research Center, Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan and staff, and Linda Henry of the Port of Houston Authority.

"We are deeply appreciative of Administrator Pruitt's promptness and clarity in making this decision. We want to work with him to get this site cleaned up now," **said Vince Ryan, Harris County attorney**.

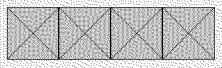
Following the meeting, Administrator Pruitt delivered remarks to the Texas Oil & Gas Association in The Woodlands, Texas to discuss EPA’s agenda to provide regulatory certainty in the marketplace.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt meets with local stakeholders in Houston, Texas.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt greets attendees.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt with local stakeholders.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 8/8/2017 6:32:30 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: Pruitt Continues State Action Tour in Iowa

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

PHOTOS: Pruitt Continues State Action Tour in Iowa

Des Moines, Iowa (August 8, 2017) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt continued his state action tour in Iowa on Tuesday, visiting his eighth state in four weeks.

"Iowa is home to a robust agriculture industry that EPA should not be obstructing with unnecessary and costly regulations that do little to promote environmental stewardship," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "By beginning the process to redefine WOTUS, EPA is providing regulatory certainty for farmers, ranchers, and landowners while respecting the traditional oversight role of states to help keep water clean."

Administrator Pruitt began his visit at the state capitol where he met with Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, U.S. Senator Joni Ernst, Iowa Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey and other state officials to discuss how EPA's recent decision to begin the process of redefining 'Waters of the United States' (WOTUS) will help empower traditional state governing powers and keep water clean for Iowans. Following his meeting at the state capitol, Administrator Pruitt held a roundtable hosted by the Iowa Farm Bureau where he met with state agribusiness leaders to discuss how EPA is providing regulatory certainty with the Agency's recent WOTUS decision. U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley also joined Administrator Pruitt and state officials at the roundtable.

"The 2015 Waters of the United States rule was a significant and severe case of government overreach by the Obama administration," **said Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds**. "I want to thank Administrator Pruitt for traveling to Iowa to hear directly from farmers, once again showing his commitment to partnering with states."

"The federal government works for the people of Iowa and the rest of the United States," **said U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley**. "Administrator Pruitt is right to come to Iowa and hear firsthand how the WOTUS rule and other regulations affect the farmers on the ground who are good stewards of the land while feeding the world."

"Today we heard more input from Iowans about the harmful impact the Obama administration's WOTUS rule would have on our state," **said U.S. Senator Joni Ernst**. "Here in Iowa, 97 percent of our land could see extensive overregulation by the EPA through this misguided rule, unnecessarily hamstringing our farmers, businesses, and manufacturers. I am pleased that Administrator Pruitt and the Trump administration are taking this feedback seriously and are working to eliminate the burdensome WOTUS rule."

"With the potential to regulate 97% of Iowa and hamper the ability of farmers to implement conservation efforts, we applaud EPA Administrator Pruitt for taking the steps to repeal the misguided Waters of the U.S. rule," **said Craig Hill, President of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation**. "Farm Bureau looks forward to working with the EPA to draft a new rule that provides clarity and predictability to farmers and upholds the intent of the Clean Water Act."

EPA Administrator Pruitt (left) discusses WOTUS and other Agency priorities with U.S. Senator Joni Ernst (second from left), Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds (second from right), and Iowa Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (right).

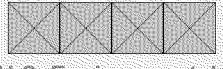
Iowa Lt. Adam Gregg (left), Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds (second from left), EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (middle), U.S. Senator Joni Ernst (second from right), and Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey (right).

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses roundtable at the Iowa Farm Bureau

U.S. Senator Joni Ernst (left), Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds (second from left), EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (middle), U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley (second from right), and Iowa Farm Bureau President Craig Hill (right) hold roundtable on WOTUS .

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt elaborates on EPA's decision to begin the process redefining WOTUS.

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 8/4/2017 6:00:23 PM
Subject: ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT VISITS GOLD KING MINE ON ANNIVERSARY OF SPILL

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT VISITS GOLD KING MINE ON ANNIVERSARY OF SPILL

"A New Review is Paramount for Those Who Suffered Losses" – Administrator Pruitt

Silverton, Colo (August 4, 2017) — On the eve of the two-year anniversary of Gold King Mine spill, Administrator Scott Pruitt visited the site outside Silverton, Colorado to discuss his commitment to those affected by the release of 3 million gallons of contaminated mine water into the Cement Creek and Animas River.

"EPA should be held to the same standard as those we regulate," **said EPA Administrator Pruitt.** "The previous Administration failed those who counted on them to protect the environment."

Despite the release of 3 million gallons of contaminated water tainted with arsenic, lead and other heavy metals, which turned the Animas River mustard-yellow, and moved along the San Juan River through Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and American Indian land to Lake Powell in Utah, the EPA Administrator at the time, Gina McCarthy, nor President Obama nor Vice President Biden, ever visited the site of the spill itself.

Fulfilling his promise during his confirmation hearing to the people of Colorado to visit the site, Administrator Pruitt, along with U.S. Senators Cory Gardner and Michael Bennett and Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper toured Gold King Mine, met with EPA staff on site and discussed a path forward.

"When I was appointed EPA Administrator by President Trump, I committed to review the Gold King Mine decision made by the previous Administration. A new review is paramount to ensure that those who have, in fact, suffered losses have a fair opportunity to have their claims heard," **said Administrator Pruitt**.

Following the tour, EPA political appointees are participating in a town hall in Durango, Colo. with local residents to hear directly from those living around the mine about how they have been affected by the spill.

"We want to listen and learn directly from the community," **said Ken Wagner, senior advisor to the administrator for regional and state affairs.** "The local community is ground zero in environmental disasters, and we want to hear their concerns and do our best to coordinate and provide assistance."

Additional Background:

In January 2017, the previous EPA administration denied 79 administrative claims filed by farmers,

ranchers, homeowners, businesses, employees, state and local governments, as well as other individuals seeking damages in connection with the Gold King Mine incident.

On March 16, 2017, EPA provided over $90,000 in additional reimbursements to five entities in Colorado and Utah for costs incurred responding to the August, 5, 2015 release. These payments represent requests received by EPA prior to December 16, 2016, that had adequate documentation. They were evaluated following enactment of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act on December 16, 2016.

On July 5, 2017, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced his decision to reconsider claims for Gold King Mine damages previously denied by the past Administration. As part of this process, EPA is continuing to review pending claims.

Following the Administrator's instruction, EPA sent letters to approximately 77 claimants whose claims related to the 2015 Gold King Mine release were previously denied. Each letter informs claimants that EPA has reexamined applicable law and facts and will reconsider all of the claims. In some cases, the letter also requests claimants submit any additional documentation in support of their claims.

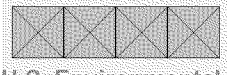
According to the Federal Tort Claims Act, individuals, businesses, or governmental entities that have a claim for money damages resulting from personal injury or property loss or damage must file their administrative claims within two years of the date the claim accrued.

Some claimants have already filed legal challenges to the Agency's denial of their claims. Those actions will continue to follow the judicial process. In February, the State of Utah filed an administrative claim seeking $1.9 billion. On August 2, 2017 Utah sued the mine owners and EPA contractors for cleanup compensation and unspecified damages. The State of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation, whose administrative claims were denied, have filed motions seeking to add their tort claims to the preexisting Gold King Mine litigation in the District of New Mexico.

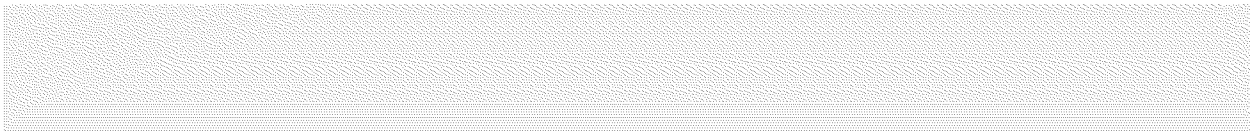
The Gold King Mine release occurred on August 5, 2015. EPA has spent more than $29 million responding and addressed many of the issues arising out of the Gold King Mine incident including reimbursing response costs by state, local and tribal governments, providing continued water treatment and monitoring, listing the Bonita Peak Mining District on the National Priorities List of Superfund sites, and conducting research to improve our understanding of how contaminants move through complex river systems. There are an estimated 500,000 abandoned mine sites across the United States.

There are currently 144 total claims pending, including the ones undergoing reconsideration, that require EPA action. EPA has six months (until the end of December) to act on claims under reconsideration.

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 8/4/2017 4:15:00 PM
Subject: FOX DENVER: EPA chief to tour Gold King mine on 2-year anniversary of spill caused by agency

FOX 31 DENVER

EPA Chief to Tour Gold King Mine on 2-Year Anniversary of Spill Caused by Agency

Click Here To Watch The Video

FOX 31 Denver
August 4, 2017
http://kdvr.com/2017/08/04/epa-administrator-pruitt-part-of-delegation-to-tour-gold-king-mine-area-on2-year-anniversary-of-spill/

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and Colorado leaders will tour the site of the Gold King mine spill on Friday to mark the second anniversary of the spill that dumped 3 million gallons of tainted wastewater into the Animas River.

Gov. John Hickenlooper, Sens. Cory Gardner Michael Bennet, and Rep. Scott Tipton will also tour the site above Silverton, and meet with Pruitt and other representatives of the EPA. ...

A cleanup led by the EPA at the old gold mine on Aug. 5, 2015 dumped wastewater contaminated with arsenic and lead into the Animas River in southwest Colorado, turning it a shade of yellow.

The blowout sent water laced with toxic heavy metals through southwest Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

To Read The Full Story Click Here

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 8/3/2017 10:23:53 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: Pruitt Continues State Action Tour in Colorado

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

PHOTOS: Pruitt Continues State Action Tour in Colorado

DENVER (August 3, 2017) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt continued his state action tour in Colorado today, marking the seventh state visit in three weeks.

"There is now hope and optimism for farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses across the country. Two years ago, senior EPA officials with the previous Administration visited Frasier Ranch promising this same audience that agriculture would experience no adverse effects by the 2015 WOTUS rule," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "Unfortunately, that couldn't have been further from the truth. Today, I returned to the farm to ensure Coloradans regulatory certainty and return traditional oversight back to the states and prioritize keeping Colorado's water clean."

Administrator Pruitt began his visit by addressing Cloud Peak Energy in Broomfield, Colo. to discuss the Agency's agenda to enact sensible energy policy that promotes environmental stewardship while unnecessarily harming jobs. Following his address, Administrator Pruitt visited Fraiser Ranch in Woodrow, Colo. where he discussed EPA's recent decision to begin the process of redefining the definition of a "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule that would seek to provide regulatory certainty for farmers, ranchers, and land owners and also empower traditional regulatory roles for state governments.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt discusses WOTUS with Fraiser Ranch employees in Woodrow, Colo.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt greets Fraiser Ranch employees in Woodrow, Colo.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 11/21/2017 5:00:09 PM
Subject: EPA Extends Enforcement Discretion for Electricity Generation in Puerto Rico

EPA Extends Enforcement Discretion for Electricity Generation in Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON (November 21, 2017) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced that it will extend enforcement discretion for Puerto Rico Electric and Power Authority (PREPA) facilities that have been impacted or damaged by Hurricane Maria through January 31, 2018. Today's action extends a "no action assurance" issued by EPA on October 6, 2017, and will continue to provide the utility relief from some Clean Air Act permit conditions and permitting requirements, including emission limits, hours of operation limits, fuel usage restrictions, and restrictions on the shutdown or bypass of pollution control equipment for most of their electric generating units operating in Puerto Rico.

"Extending the enforcement discretion for local power facilities is an important step to ensuring power is restored in communities across Puerto Rico," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**.

Under EPA's no action assurance letters, the facilities must continue to exercise good air pollution control practices and comply with all other federal, state and local environmental laws. EPA policy allows the Agency to issue no action assurances in cases where it is necessary to avoid extreme risks to public health and safety and where no other mechanism can adequately address the matter. EPA believes that the exercise of enforcement discretion in these circumstances is in the public interest and will help address the emergency circumstances in Puerto Rico.

EPA is working closely with the government of Puerto Rico to assist PREPA with bringing more customers on line as quickly as possible.

EPA continues to coordinate closely with federal, commonwealth, territory, and local partners as the Agency responds to the impact of Hurricane Maria. EPA is focused on environmental impacts and potential threats to human health as well as the safety of those in the affected areas.

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 8/10/2017 8:44:56 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Takes State Action Tour to Texas

Contact Information: press@epa.gov

PHOTOS: Administrator Pruitt Takes State Action Tour to Texas

DALLAS (August 10, 2017) - U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt capped off his week-long state swing in Texas today, marking his 10th state visit in four weeks as part of EPA's state action tour. For his first stop, Administrator Pruitt toured Toyota's new headquarters in Plano.

"EPA is always interested in seeing environmentally-friendly business practices first hand," **said EPA Administrator Pruitt.** "We celebrate companies who incorporate innovative and sustainable business practices into their growing companies."

"We were pleased to show Administrator Pruitt our new headquarters in Plano, TX and to highlight the environmental sustainability aspects of the new facility, **said Chris Reynolds, Executive Vice President, Toyota Motor North America**. "Toyota previously announced it will invest $10 billion over the next five years in the U.S., and the new headquarters is just one of those commitments to help grow American jobs. We appreciate the opportunity to showcase our new Plano headquarters where we will soon have 4,000 team members working in a more collaborative way in order to better serve our customers."

Administrator Pruitt also met with the current and former leadership of the Dallas Builders Association while he was in Texas to discuss environmental issues around developing new projects in the North Texas area.

"We feel like it is important for us to get out, into the states and talk directly with local people and businesses about how EPA regulations affect them. What we are hearing is that people deeply care about the environment and want sensible regulations that allow them to grow their businesses and create local jobs, without unnecessarily and costly regulatory burdens," **said Administrator Pruitt.**

"The Dallas Builders Association commends EPA Administrator Pruitt for holding this roundtable in Dallas to get direct feedback from home builders and developers who are affected by burdensome regulations that raise the cost of housing and harm small businesses," **said Dallas BA President Michael Turner**. "The nation's home builders support the administrator's efforts to enact a revised waters of the U.S. rule that will protect the environment without adding unnecessary regulatory burdens that will hurt housing and other industries in Texas that rely on a predictable permitting process."

Earlier today, Administrator Pruitt joined WBAP Morning News. The interview can be heard here:

http://www.wbap.com/2017/08/10/morning-news-epa-chief-scott-pruitt-interview/

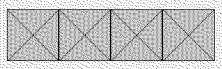
EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (second from left) speaks with Toyota's Tom Stricker (left), Chris Reynolds (second from right), and Doug Beebe (right).

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (right) tours Toyota in Plano, Texas with Toyota's Tom Stricker (left), Doug Beebe (second from left), and Kevin Butt (right).

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt greets members of the Dallas Builders Association.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses the Dallas Builders Association.

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 7/20/2017 7:32:15 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: Pruitt Stops in Arkansas for State Action Tour

PHOTOS: Pruitt Stops in Arkansas for State Action Tour

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – (July 20, 2017) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt continued his state action tour in Arkansas today. Administrator Pruitt met with Governor Asa Hutchinson and Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, and representatives from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to discuss restoring cooperative federalism by re-visiting the 2015 "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule. He also announced EPA's approval of Arkansas' 303(d) water quality standards that list impaired waters for the state of Arkansas, dating back to 2010. EPA is clearing the backlog that existed for the years 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

"Under the Trump Administration, EPA is focused on partnering with states to achieve the best environmental outcomes," **said EPA Administrator Pruitt.** "I am proud to announce that EPA is now approving the 303(d) list that recognizes Arkansas's water quality improvements made under Governor Hutchinson's leadership."

"I appreciate Administrator Pruitt and the administration for the work they're doing with the states and for listening to governors about how regulations affect our citizens," **said Governor Asa Hutchinson**. "His decision to begin the process to rescind this burdensome and overreaching rule, enacted under the Obama Administration, is welcome news and shows a return to cooperative federalism with the states. In addition, I am pleased with EPA's approval of Arkansas's 303(d) list. Arkansas supports clean water and has taken great strides to protect and enhance our natural environment. The clear and efficient regulations from EPA under Administrator Pruitt-as well as the agency's focus on a more balanced partnership with the states-is good news for Arkansans."

"I am proud to welcome EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to the Natural State," **said Attorney General Rutledge.** "Administrator Pruitt's decision last month to completely re-evaluate the WOTUS rule, minimizing the regulatory burden on countless landowners, demonstrates his commitment to building stronger relationships with state partners. Preserving and protecting our clean air and clean water through a cooperative, lawful and thoughtful process based on science and data is a priority for Arkansas."

As a result of Arkansas's efforts, 76 percent of water bodies impaired in 2008 are no longer showing impairments and a total of 335 waters are now meeting Arkansas Water Quality Standards.

Administrator Pruitt also held a breakfast roundtable this morning hosted by The Poultry Federation where he discussed EPA's decision to re-evaluate the 2015 WOTUS Rule. All segments of Arkansas' agriculture were represented.

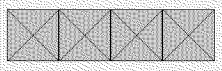
"Agriculture is Arkansas' largest industry adding $16 billion to the state's economy each year, said Marvin Childers," **President of The Poultry Federation**. "We are pleased to have Administrator Pruitt is Arkansas and we look forward to the changes he discussed."

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses the Poultry Federation

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Sat 12/2/2017 3:19:13 PM
Subject: Pruitt Brings State Action Tour To Iowa & Kentucky

Pruitt Brings State Action Tour To Iowa And Kentucky

Click Here To Watch Administrator Pruitt's Interview On KCCI-TV Des Moines

The Cedar Rapids Gazette reports that Administrator Pruitt wants to use our natural resources. "The new head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency told an Iowa crowd Friday he will work with states when crafting environmental rules, and he criticized the Obama administration for doing the reverse. 'What's important for us in Washington, D.C., to do is to learn and partner and work with folks at the state level to achieve good outcomes together. That just simply has not happened for a number of years,' said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, during a stop in Nevada. Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general, also said the United States should use the natural resources it has, not 'put up fences' around them."

The Des Moines Register reports Pruitt called farmers the first 'conservationists, environmentalists.' "Pruitt said the country needed to discuss what 'true environmentalism' means: 'We have been blessed with a bounty of natural resources. And some view that as 'We should simply not use them' — that we should put up fences and not use our natural resources. 'I don't buy that. We, as a country, have an obligation to feed the world and power the world,' he said, getting applause. 'When you have the natural resources like we do, we should use them to benefit our neighbors, our country and world.'"

The Quad-City Times reports that EPA is studying if E15 can be approved for year-round sale. "Pruitt, during his remarks at the Friday afternoon event near Nevada, said his agency is studying whether it has the legal standing to approve E15 for year-round sale. He said if it is determined the agency can do so without Congressional approval, it will make E15 available year-round. If not, Pruitt said he would make a recommendation to Congress to change the law."

In Kentucky, WHAS-TV in Louisville reports that next year, Pruitt will have changes to Obama's WOTUS. "The head of the United States Environmental Protection Agency was in Louisville Thursday with a promise of change to one of the most controversial environmental regulations for Kentucky farmers. Administrator Scott Pruitt told the Kentucky Farm Bureau's 98th Annual Meeting that the "Waters of the United States" regulation will be changed forever by mid-2018."

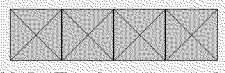
Click Here To Watch The Video

Finally, the West Kentucky Star reports that Pruitt denounced Obama's WOTUS. "Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt found a friendly audience in Kentucky as he

lambasted an Obama-era clean-water rule. Pruitt told a Kentucky Farm Bureau audience on Thursday that the rule aimed at protecting small streams and wetlands from development and pollution was an example of federal overreach. He said the rule tried to redefine the Clean Water Act to cover puddles, dry creek beds and drainage ditches. President Donald Trump's environmental chief drew applause from the farm group as he said the rule is being 'fixed' and said a replacement rule is coming next year."

TWEETS ...

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 12/1/2017 11:00:04 PM
Subject: EPA Determines Risks from Hardrock Mining Industry Minimal and No Need for Additional Federal Requirements

EPA Determines Risks from Hardrock Mining Industry Minimal andNo Need for Additional Federal Requirements

WASHINGTON (December 1, 2017) – Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Agency will not issue final regulations for financial responsibility requirements for certain hardrock mining facilities.

"After careful analysis of public comments, the statutory authority, and the record for this rulemaking, EPA is confident that modern industry practices, along with existing state and federal requirements address risks from operating hardrock mining facilities," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.** "Additional financial assurance requirements are unnecessary and would impose an undue burden on this important sector of the American economy and rural America, where most of these mining jobs are based."

EPA published proposed regulations under section 108(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund) on January 11, 2017, and the public comment period closed on July 11, 2017. EPA has decided not to issue final regulations because the risks associated with these facilities' operations are addressed by existing federal and state programs and industry practices. EPA was under a court-ordered deadline to take final action on this rulemaking by December 1, 2017. The decision not to issue final rules under CERCLA section 108(b) will be published in the Federal Register.

EPA has analyzed the need for financial responsibility requirements under CERCLA section 108(b) based on the degree and duration of risk associated with the production, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances from current hardrock mining operations, as well the risk of taxpayer funded cleanups at facilities operating under modern management practices and modern environmental regulations. That risk is identified by examining: the management of hazardous substances at such facilities; federal and state regulatory controls on that management and federal and state financial responsibility requirements; and, the payment experience of the Fund in responding to releases.

EPA concluded the degree and duration of risk associated with the modern production, transportation, treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous substances by the hardrock mining industry does not present a level of risk of taxpayer funded response actions that warrant imposition of financial responsibility requirements under CERCLA for this sector. This determination reflects EPA's interpretation of the statute, EPA's evaluation of the record for the proposed rule, and the approximately 11,000 public comments received by EPA on this rulemaking.

State mining and environmental regulators, as well as other federal agencies and the regulated community and financial sectors, commented that the proposed requirements would potentially interfere with state and local mining regulations, were unnecessary, and would be difficult to implement. This decision does not in any way affect EPA's authority to take appropriate response actions under CERCLA.

“I urged then President-elect Trump to stop the EPA’s overreach into state regulation harming Montana businesses,” said **U.S. Senate Western Caucus Chairman Steve Daines (R-MT).** “Instead of threatening the very industries that are a backbone of our Western economies, we need to support American families and American businesses to secure our mineral and energy independence. I am pleased the EPA has taken action.”

“I am grateful for Administrator Pruitt’s leadership in eliminating this costly, duplicative, and job-killing rule,” **said Arizona Governor Doug Ducey.** "Arizona already has financial responsibility protections in place for hardrock mines and does not need a duplicative federal program that will unnecessarily burden a key Arizona industry."

“I am thankful that the EPA and Administrator Pruitt have decided to reject the proposed CERCLA rule,” **said Idaho Governor Butch Otter.** “This is another victory for returning power to the states.”

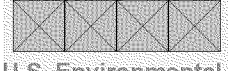
“The pending CERCLA 108(b) rulemaking has been at the top of my agenda,” **said Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval.** “The success of Nevada’s robust mine bonding program protects public safety and our environment and ensures our critical mining industry can operate with certainty. I applaud the EPA for their thoughtful approach and thorough review of the proposed rule, for seeking comments from a diverse set of stakeholders and ultimately, for making the right decision. Today’s action by the Administrator recognizes the reality that the states have been capably regulating mine bonding without interference from Washington and should be allowed to continue to do so.”

“States have developed comprehensive financial responsibility programs for hardrock mining in the 30 years since the passage of CERCLA 108(b)(1),” **said Jim Ogsbury, executive director of the bipartisan Western Governors’ Association.** “These programs require operators to comply with state regulations, implement reclamation and post-closure plans, and post financial assurance to minimize risks to public health and the environment. Western Governors appreciate EPA’s decision regarding its proposed financial assurance requirements under CERCLA 108(b), which would have duplicated or supplanted existing and proven state financial assurance regulations.”

"EPA's actions to rescind the CERCLA 108(b) financial assurance rule is another positive step by EPA in eliminating redundant regulations and recognizing the importance of cooperative federalism," **said Todd Parfitt, director of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.**

A pre-publication version of this action may be viewed at: https://www.epa.gov/superfund/proposed-rule-financial-responsibility-requirements-under-cercla-section-108b-classes

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 12/1/2017 9:15:01 PM
Subject: PHOTOS: EPA Administrator Pruitt Makes Stops in Iowa

PHOTOS: EPA Administrator Pruitt Makes Stops in Iowa

Nevada, Iowa (December 1, 2017) — Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt visited Iowa and met with the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC), state officials, and farmers to discuss ongoing partnerships with the Agency.

"I was encouraged by the open dialogue with members of the electric cooperatives, Governor Reynolds, and Iowa farmers," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "We must continue to strengthen our partnerships with state and local leaders to further our goals of bringing regulatory certainty and clarity for Iowa and across the country."

Administrator Pruitt started the day at the IAEC annual meeting where he addressed more than 500 leaders from across the state about EPA's proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan (CPP) and proposal to rescind the 2015 "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule.

"We were honored to have Administrator Pruitt address our 500 attendees during our statewide annual meeting this morning," **remarked Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives**. "Iowa's not-for-profit electric cooperatives are committed to providing power that is safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible. Hearing from Administrator Pruitt today made us feel confident the EPA is listening to our needs and concerns. We commend him for working to provide a common-sense regulatory framework that gives electric co-ops flexibility and certainty to meet the needs of our member-owners."

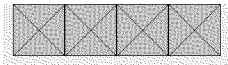
Following the electric cooperatives meeting, Administrator Pruitt met with over 150 Iowa farmers at a farm in Nevada. The dialogue was focused on the WOTUS rule, long-term plans for the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program, and EPA's new standards for the use of the pesticide dicamba. Governor Kim Reynolds (R-IA) and other state officials joined Administrator Pruitt for the discussion.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt meets with members of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Chuck Soderberg, executive vice president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, interviews EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt at the annual IAEC meeting.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt addresses local Future Farmers of America students in Nevada, Iowa.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 11/3/2017 3:45:02 PM
Subject: EPA Announces Intention To Nominate Members To Three Important Federal Advisory Committees

EPA Announces Intention To Nominate Members To Three Important Federal Advisory Committees

WASHINGTON (November 3, 2017) – Today, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced his intention to appoint members who will serve on the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC) and the Science Advisory Board (SAB).

"To ensure that EPA is receiving the best independent scientific advice, I am appointing highly-qualified experts and scientists to these important committees," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**.

In a fair, open, and transparent fashion, EPA reviewed hundreds of qualified applicants nominated for these committees. Members who will be appointed include experts throughout the environmental stakeholder community, including from NGOs, academia, industry, and state, tribal and local officials. The makeup of the membership speaks to EPA's commitment to science and openness to expertise from a diverse array of perspectives. Those nominees willing to serve have committed to remaining financially independent from EPA grants during their tenures.

Federal Advisory Committees (FAC) members that will serve on the BOSC can be found here.

Federal Advisory Committees (FAC) members that will serve on the CASAC can be found here.

Federal Advisory Committees (FAC) members that will serve on the SAB can be found here.

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 11/9/2017 5:10:53 PM
Subject: EPA Proposes Repeal of Glider Provisions for Heavy-Duty Truck Rule

Administrator Pruitt Advances Effort to Keep EPA within Regulatory Lane with Proposed Repeal of Glider Provisions from Heavy-Duty Truck Rule

WASHINGTON (November 9, 2017) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to undo the regulatory overreach of the prior administration by repealing application of the Medium- and Heavy-Duty Truck Phase II Greenhouse Gas Emission and Fuel Efficiency Standards for the glider industry. Gliders are a specially manufactured type of heavy duty highway vehicle assembled from newly manufactured kits that include the vehicle's frame and cab, to which a used engine, transmission and axles are added.

"The previous administration attempted to bend the rule of law and expand the reach of the federal government in a way that threatened to put an entire industry of specialized truck manufacturers out of business," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt**. "Accordingly, the Agency is taking comment on an interpretation of the Clean Air Act that recognizes the unique nature of a vehicle made up of both new and used component parts. Gliders not only provide a more affordable option for smaller owners and operators, but also serve as a key economic driver to numerous rural communities."

Due to the unique way that gliders are manufactured, the Agency is proposing that gliders should not be regulated as "new motor vehicles" or "new motor vehicle engines" under section 202(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act. This action does not affect nor propose to affect EPA's authority to address heavy-duty engine rebuilding practices under Clean Air Act section 202(a)(3)(D).

EPA estimates that about 10,000 gliders are manufactured annually, comprising less than five percent of the Class 8 heavy-duty highway truck market.

The public comment period for the proposal will be open through January 5, 2018. EPA will also hold a public hearing on Monday, December 4, 2017 at EPA's Washington, DC headquarters. More information on the proposal, hearing and how to comment: https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/regulations-greenhouse-gas-emissions-commercial-trucks

Today's proposal is based on a review of the glider provisions of the Phase II rule. On August 17, 2017, Administrator Pruitt announced the Agency's intent to reconsider the glider provisions of the Phase II rule in response to several petitions for reconsideration. See: https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/petitions-reconsideration-phase-2-ghg-emissions-and-fuel

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 11/1/2017 5:30:14 PM
Subject: Pruitt Promotes Independence On EPA Science Boards

Pruitt: "The days of 'political science' are over at the agency."

Pruitt Promotes Independence On EPA Science Boards

"It Just Is Not Right For The Agency To Be Issuing $77 Million In Grants And Then Asking These People To Be Providing Independent Counsel."
- EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

THE WASHINGTON POST: "Scott Pruitt Blocks Scientists With EPA Funding From Serving As Agency Advisers." "'It is very, very important to ensure independence, to ensure that we're getting advice and counsel independent of the EPA,' Pruitt told reporters Tuesday. He estimated that the members of three different committees — Scientific Advisory Board, the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee and the Board of Scientific Counselors — had collectively accepted $77 million in EPA grants over the last three years. He noted that researchers will have the option of ending their grant or continuing to advise EPA, 'but they can't do both.'" (The Washington Post, 10/31/17)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL: "EPA Bars Scientists It Funds From Advisory Roles." "The Environmental Protection Agency will no longer permit scientists receiving agency grants to serve on three of its independent advisory boards, a change the agency said was designed to foster greater independence and regional diversity for the panels, but which scientist groups and environmental advocates said would give polluting industries undue policy influence." (The Wall Street Journal, 10/31/17)

USA TODAY: "Pruitt Moves To Shake Up EPA Advisory Boards." "Scientists who receive grants from the Environmental Protection Agency will no longer be allowed to simultaneously serve on the agency's nearly two dozen advisory boards, an unprecedented directive EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt … 'We want to ensure that the American people have confidence ... in the process and that the advisers that we have in each of these respective capacities are providing independent, arms-length input to us as we make decisions.'" (USA Today, 10/31/17)

THE WASHINGTON FREE BEACON: "Members Of Scientific Boards Received $77 Million From EPA While Advising Agency." "Under the last three years of the Obama administration, members sitting on just three of the agency's scientific advisory boards received $77 million in EPA grants. Pruitt said individuals advising in policy and regulatory matters should be completely independent of the EPA." (The Washington Free Beacon, 10/31/17)

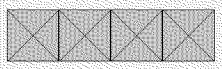
THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER: "Scott Pruitt Bars EPA Grant Recipients From Serving On Advisory Boards." "People receiving EPA grants who currently serve on the three boards will have to choose whether to keep the grant or continue their work on the boards. Most board members serve three-year terms. 'You have to choose, are you going to continue getting a grant or serve the agency,' Pruitt said. 'They can't do both.'" (The Washington Examiner, 10/31/17)

ABC NEWS: "EPA Blocks Some Scientists From Serving On Advisory Boards." "The

Environmental Protection Agency announced today that scientists who receive money from the agency will no longer be able to serve on its advisory boards, a move that critics contend will push independent science out of decisions about environmental policy. … The EPA argues that in addition to strengthening the independence of members on its boards, the move will further increase the diversity of the councils, with new members offering 'fresh perspectives.' The agency is further promoting participation from state, local and tribal governments." (ABC News, 10/31/17)

DAILY CALLER: "Trump's EPA Takes Steps To 'Ensure Independence' Among Science Advisers." "EPA will no longer allow researchers to serve on three scientific advisory boards if they also receive agency grants. The policy is to ensure science advisers are truly independent from EPA, Pruitt said, echoing concerns Republicans have voiced for years." (Daily Caller, 10/31/17)

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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 10/31/2017 9:19:00 PM
Subject: CBS: Exxon And EPA Agree To A Major Pollution Settlement

CBS NEWS

Exxon And EPA Agree To A Major Pollution Settlement

NOTE: Patrick Traylor, a former energy industry lawyer hired by new EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, said the settlements show that the Trump administration will enforce environmental laws "with prudence and with excellence." Traylor said the deals bring "two very well-respected companies" back into compliance with environmental laws. "Now they can continue their work of driving economic growth," he said.

Exxon And EPA Agree To A Major Pollution Settlement
CBS News
October 31, 2017
https://www.cbsnews.com/news/exxon-epa-settle-pollution-case/

Exxon Mobil (XOM) settled air pollution violations with the Trump administration by paying a $2.5 million civil penalty and promising to spend $300 million on pollution-control technology at several plants along the Gulf Coast.

Federal officials said Tuesday that the settlement will prevent thousands of tons of future pollution, including cancer-causing benzene, from eight petrochemical plants in Texas and Louisiana.

Some environmentalists attacked the settlement as insufficient punishment for years of violations by the giant oil company, while others said it addressed excess burning or flaring of gas, a key pollution problem at Exxon plants.

The deal settles allegations that Exxon violated the federal Clean Air Act by releasing excess harmful pollution after modifying flaring systems at five plants in Texas and three in Louisiana. The allegations date back more than a decade.

Exxon said it will install and increase the efficiency of the flaring systems and monitor for benzene outside four of the plants.

The Justice Department and the state of Colorado announced a smaller settlement over pollution charges against Denver-based PDC Energy (PDCE). The company will spend about $20 million to upgrade equipment and pay a $2.5 million civil penalty to the federal government and Colorado. Up to $1 million of the state's share can be forgiven if the company performs certain environmental projects.

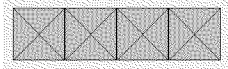
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To: Hupp, Millan[hupp.millan@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 10/5/2017 5:55:25 PM
Subject: EPA Announces Appointment of Doug Benevento to Region 8 Administrator

CONTACT: press@epa.gov

EPA Appoints Doug Benevento As Region 8 Administrator

WASHINGTON (October 5, 2017) –Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Doug Benevento of Colorado to become regional administrator for Region 8. Mr. Benevento will oversee environmental protection efforts in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana.

Doug Benevento has spent much of his career working to help protect the environment. As executive director for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, he managed the state's environmental and public health programs. He previously served as the Department's director of environmental programs, where he managed the state's air, water, waste, and consumer protection programs. Since 2010, Mr. Benevento has been working on energy and environmental issues in the private sector at Xcel Energy.

"Doug Benevento's personal connection to the Rocky Mountain state and experience working with environmental leaders across the region will greatly benefit the Agency's mission in protecting the environment in Region 8," **said Administrator Pruitt**.

His nomination is receiving high accolades from across the region:

U.S. Senator Cory Gardner: "Doug Benevento is a great choice to serve as EPA Region 8 Administrator and has the requisite experience as the former Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. I look forward to working with Doug to make the communities whole in Southwest Colorado that were impacted by the EPA-born Gold King Mine spill, ensuring the expeditious cleanup of Colorado's Superfund sites remain a top priority for the EPA, and protecting Colorado's environment across all four corners of the state."

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper: "Doug Benevento has an extensive background working on important environmental issues in the State of Colorado. He provided leadership at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment under former Governor Bill Owens and as a staffer to former Senator Wayne Allard. I look forward to working with Doug and the rest of EPA to improve the health of Coloradans and protect the natural resources we treasure as we live, work, and play in this beautiful state."

U.S. Congressman Mike Coffman: "I first met Doug Benevento when he worked for Governor Bill Owens and I've been inspired by his dedication to his community and the State of Colorado ever since. I know that he will do an outstanding job for EPA."

U.S. Congressman Scott Tipton: "I'm pleased with Doug Benevento's appointment as Region VIII EPA administrator. His record of service to the State of Colorado is distinguished, both as the former executive director of CDPHE and on the staff of Senator Wayne Allard. More importantly, he understands western issues and will bring that important perspective to the position, both in the Region and in Washington, D.C.; I applaud the appointment."

U.S. Congressman Ken Buck: "I'm excited to see Doug Benevento appointed as EPA Region VIII administrator. Doug's experience and faithfulness to the law and Constitution will benefit EPA and the people he serves. I'm eager to work him to better steward Colorado's land and resources."

Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman: "Doug Benevento was a valued colleague and leader at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. He brings to EPA's Region 8 a public health perspective that is important to all Westerners who care about protecting natural resources and the environment."

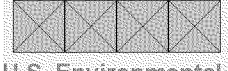
Former U.S. Senator Wayne Allard: "Doug Benevento is an excellent choice for Region VIII EPA Administrator. During my years in Congress I valued Doug's sound and thoughtful guidance on environmental issues. He was particularly helpful to me as we worked towards an early cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats. I was also impressed with his leadership at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment during the Owens Administration. I'm confident that in this role he will bring a broad base of knowledge and experience of western issues to EPA."

Former Colorado Governor Bill Owens: "Administrator Pruitt made a sound choice in choosing Doug Benevento to lead EPA Region VIII. During my two terms as Governor he served my administration well at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. He provided effective leadership at a large organization while implementing the policy direction of my administration. More importantly, I've also known Doug as a friend for over 20 years; and EPA is also getting a fine person as well as an effective leader."

Alan Matheson, Utah Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director: "I'm optimistic that Doug Benevento's experience will serve him well in building the collaborative state-EPA partnership needed to protect public health and the environment. Having run Colorado's health and environment agency, Mr. Benevento appreciates the state interest in meeting environmental standards in ways that reflect local conditions, economies, and values. I'm also encouraged that his experience in industry has fostered a practical approach to ensuring environmental compliance."

James Martin, former Region 8 Administrator: "Doug Benevento is a sound choice to lead EPA Region VIII. As a former regional administrator, I understand the challenges of the position and Doug is well suited to take on those challenges. Over the almost 20 years I've known Doug he's brought a thoughtful approach to environmental policy and regulation. This was evidenced during his tenure at CDPHE in the Owens administration. I'm confident he will provide strong and effective leadership at EPA."

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Thur 6/22/2017 7:10:00 PM
Subject: EPA Marks Chemical Safety Milestone on 1st Anniversary of Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act

EPA Marks Chemical Safety Milestone on 1st Anniversary of Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act

Agency Meeting Statutory Responsibilities and Deadlines

WASHINGTON – (June 22, 2017) Today, on the one-year anniversary of the *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act*, Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that EPA has met its first-year statutory responsibilities under the law. This includes issuing three new rules, providing a guidance document for external parties, and releasing the scoping documents for the first 10 risk evaluations that will be conducted.

"The activities we are announcing today demonstrate this Administration's commitment to providing regulatory certainty to American businesses, while protecting human health and the environment," said Administrator Pruitt. **"The new process for evaluating existing chemicals outlined in these rules will increase public confidence in chemical safety without stifling innovation."**

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signs new TSCA rules surrounded by staff from EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

The *Act* amends the nation's primary chemicals management law known as the *Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)*. The legislation received bipartisan support in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, and provides significant new responsibilities and authorities to EPA to advance chemical safety.

EPA has completed the following implementation activities at this one-year anniversary:

- Finalized a rule to establish EPA's process and criteria for identifying high priority chemicals for risk evaluation and low priority chemicals for which risk evaluation is not needed. In response to public comments, this final rule affirms EPA's commitment to following the best available science, engaging stakeholders in the prioritization process, and recognizing the value of designating chemicals as low priority when appropriate. Read more: http://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/prioritizing-existing-chemicals-risk-evaluation

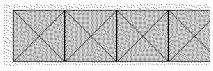
- Finalized a rule to establish EPA's process for evaluating high priority chemicals to determine whether or not they present an unreasonable risk to health or the environment. In response to public comments, this final rule clearly defines important scientific terms to ensure transparency and confidence in the risk evaluation process while retaining flexibility to allow for new scientific approaches to be incorporated as they are developed. Additionally, the final rule clarifies EPA's authority to determine what uses of a chemical are appropriate for risk evaluation, ensuring that the Agency's resources are focused on those uses that may pose the greatest risk. Read more: https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-evaluations-chemicals-under-tsca

- **Finalized a rule to require industry reporting of chemicals manufactured or processed in the U.S. over the past 10 years. This reporting will be used to identify which chemical substances on the TSCA Inventory are active in U.S. commerce and will help inform the chemicals EPA prioritizes for risk evaluation. In response to public comments, EPA streamlined the reporting requirements for manufacturers and processors in the final rule to help reduce regulatory burden. Read more: https://www.epa.gov/tsca-inventory/tsca-inventory-notification-active-inactive-rule**

- **Released scope documents for the initial ten chemicals for risk evaluation under the amended law. These documents identify what uses of the chemicals will be evaluated and how the evaluation will be conducted. Read more: https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-evaluations-chemicals-under-tsca#ten**

- **Released guidance for external parties interested in submitting draft risk evaluations to the EPA for consideration. Read more: https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/guidance-assist-interested-persons-developing-and**

This past year has been marked by many EPA accomplishments to implement the amended law. More information on EPA's progress to date and a full list of all the TSCA implementation activities can be found here*:* https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/frank-r-lautenberg-chemical-safety-21st-century-act-5



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To: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 6/16/2017 7:43:19 PM
Subject: EPA's Weekly Round-Up For 06/16/17

The EPA's Weekly Round-Up ...

Between G-7 meetings in Italy, testifying before Congress about President Trump's budget that protects the environment, putting the brakes on Obama's methane rule, responding to 386 of the 416 letters from Congress and cleaning-up brownfield sites across the country, it was a results-driven week at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

NATIONAL NEWS …

Administrator Pruitt was in Italy at the G-7 where he talked about the new priorities of the Trump Administration. "Respective of the importance to engage with longstanding allies and key international partners, we approached the climate discussions head on from a position of strength and clarity. We are resetting the dialogue to say Paris is not the only way forward to making progress. Today's action of reaching consensus makes clear that the Paris Agreement is not the only mechanism by which environmental stewardship can be demonstrated. It also demonstrates our commitment to honest conversations, which are the cornerstone of constructive international dialogue, " said Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Need to Know News reports that Scott Pruitt testified before the House of Representatives and said that the EPA is focused on the rule of law and cooperative federalism. "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt laid out his vision for his agency at a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Thursday, saying the EPA will focus on the rule of law and cooperative federalism. He expressed confidence that the EPA can accomplish these goals on a 'trimmed budget.' 'We're reversing an attitude and approach that one can simply reimagine authority under statutes passed by this body,' Pruitt said."

Click Here To Watch The Video

The editorial board at the Wall Street Journal reports that unlike the Obama Administration, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is committed to cleaning up Superfunds sites. "One cost of making climate change a religion is that more immediate environmental problems have been ignored—not least by the Environmental Protection Agency. New EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt plans to address that in an underreported effort to clean up toxic waste sites under the so-called Superfund program. In a memo to EPA staff last month, Mr. Pruitt announced a plan to reform the Superfund program created in 1980 and to accelerate the clean up of hazardous waste sites such as old industrial properties or landfills. The effort is long overdue. Superfund has too often become a sinecure for the bureaucracy and a cash cow for lawyers. EPA staff offices can wait years or decades to assess a Superfund site, figure out who's liable for what, consult with the community, decide on a remedy and assign the actual work."

The Hill reports that the EPA has put the brakes on the Obama Administration's methane rule. "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed pausing an Obama administration oil

and gas pollution rule for two years while it reconsiders the regulation."

The Washington Free Beacon reports that the EPA has been incredibly responsive to requests from the Senate EPW Committee. "The Environmental Protection Agency has responded to half of a Senate oversight committee's information requests, undermining a top Democrat's claim that he is blocking nominees because the agency has not answered his letters."

The Washington Examiner reports that the EPA has been incredibly responsive to Congress and responded to 386 out of 416 letters sent to the agency. "The Environmental Protection Agency doesn't think the numbers add up on the complaints raised by Democratic Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware over unanswered letters. 'We've responded to 386 of the 416 letters received from Congress, including 11 of the 20 letters received from' Carper, the top Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox, citing EPA's latest tally conducted Tuesday."

The EPA released a new web video highlighting that our farmers are true environmentalists. **"**"Farmers are the true environmentalists…the stewards of the land' – Kim, on an American Agri-Women visit to EPA."

Click Here To Watch The Video

TO THE STATES …

In Michigan, the Detroit News reports that Pruitt said that the closing of regional EPA offices is pure legend. "The administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday that reports that its Great Lakes regional office in Chicago would permanently close are 'pure legend.' 'There is no consideration presently with respect to any regional offices about moving them to one location or another. I'm not sure where that came from,' Administrator Scott Pruitt told a House Appropriations subcommittee."

In Ohio, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reports that Pruitt wants to clean-up the Great Lakes. *"Pruitt told Joyce the EPA will acknowledge priorities that Congress had outlined in past legislation, and will work 'as partners and stakeholders' with states on environmental concerns. 'We recognize the importance of the Great Lakes,' said Pruitt. 'We will work with Congress to ensure that those objectives are attained.'"*

Additionally, the Plain Dealer reports that Pruitt reaffirmed the EPA's commitment to cleaning up the Black River in Lorain. "[Pruitt] assured [Rep. Kaptur] that budget cuts the agency requested would not affect existing contracts for cleanup along the Black River in Lorain."

In New York, the Buffalo News reports that Pruitt and the EPA are making progress at cleaning-up chemicals that are stockpiled at Tonawanda warehouse. "Seven months ago, state and federal authorities seized control of a Town of Tonawanda chemical supplier allegedly stockpiling thousands of tons of chemicals. Tuesday, the scene was safe enough for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to offer reporters a safety-vest and hard-hat behind-the-scenes peek of the cleanup."

In Kansas, the High Plains Journal reports that the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council supports the nomination of Susan Bodine. "The National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council recently sent a letter to U.S. Sens. John Barrasso (R-WY) and Thomas Carper (D-DE) urging them to support the nomination of Susan Bodine to be the

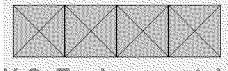
Environmental Protection Agency's assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. … 'Bodine has impeccable credentials with 29 years of environmental law and policy experience garnered from leadership positions in the federal government and private sector,' said NCBA President Craig Uden and PLC President David Eliason in the joint letter."

In Wisconsin, WBAY-TV reports that Pruitt and the EPA are cleaning-up Green Bay. "Green Bay's redevelopment efforts are getting a big boost with a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency."

Click Here To Watch The Video

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To: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 6/13/2017 12:14:13 PM
Subject: WSJ: Cleaning Up The Superfund Mess

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...

Cleaning Up The Superfund Mess
Obama Put Climate Gestures Above Toxic Waste Remedies.

The Wall Street Journal
June 12, 2017
https://www.wsj.com/articles/cleaning-up-the-superfund-mess-1497309104

One cost of making climate change a religion is that more immediate environmental problems have been ignored—not least by the Environmental Protection Agency. New EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt plans to address that in an underreported effort to clean up toxic waste sites under the so-called Superfund program.

In a memo to EPA staff last month, Mr. Pruitt announced a plan to reform the Superfund program created in 1980 and to accelerate the clean up of hazardous waste sites such as old industrial properties or landfills. The effort is long overdue. Superfund has too often become a sinecure for the bureaucracy and a cash cow for lawyers. EPA staff offices can wait years or decades to assess a Superfund site, figure out who's liable for what, consult with the community, decide on a remedy and assign the actual work.

Take the West Lake Landfill Superfund site in Bridgeton, Missouri, which was used for quarrying in the 1930s and later as a landfill. In 1973, 8,700 tons of leached barium sulfate from the Manhattan Project was dumped there, along with soil and waste. The EPA listed the 200-acre facility as a Superfund site in 1990.

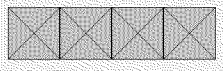
Yet it took 18 years for EPA to decide how to clean up West Lake, finally settling in 2008 on a "multi-layered engineered cover and a system of new monitoring wells." In 2009 the Obama EPA ditched that solution and re-opened the file. In 2010 an underground chemical reaction ignited a fire that is still smoldering.

Another example is the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex in Idaho and Washington state that polluted the air and soil with heavy metals such as lead. The EPA put Bunker Hill on its original list of 406 Superfund sites in 1983, but it too remains an open case.

Or Portland Harbor, in Oregon, which was listed in 2000. The private companies EPA found responsible spent years and tens of millions of dollars on a clean-up study that the agency eventually discarded. Obama EPA chief Gina McCarthy didn't choose a remedy for the site until this January, days before President Trump's inauguration, using information that was more than a decade old.

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To: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Mon 6/12/2017 4:02:56 PM
Subject: Bipartisan Environmental Leaders Praise Susan Bodine's EPA Nomination

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Bipartisan Environmental Leaders Praise Susan Bodine's EPA Nomination

WASHINGTON – (June 12, 2017) Prior to Susan Bodine's confirmation hearing in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee tomorrow, environmental leaders, including former DOJ and EPA officials who served in both Republican and Democrat administrations, are offering praise for Bodine's nomination to serve as EPA's Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Bodine currently serves as Chief Counsel for the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) committee. She previously served as EPA's Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response in the George W. Bush Administration, and possesses nearly 29 years of environmental law experience.

What They're Saying About Susan Bodine's Nomination ...

Senate EPW Chairman John Barrasso: "She has extensive experience working both on Capitol Hill and previously in leadership at the EPA. Susan is committed to finding commonsense ways to protect America's land, air, and water. In this new role, I know that she will work to help communities and small businesses comply with the law, while holding polluters accountable."

John Cruden, President-Elect of the American College of Environmental Lawyers and Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice (12/2014-1/2017): "I have worked with Susan over a number of years as she has had significant leadership positions in environmental law and practice. Susan is dedicated to the rule of law, a lawyer with great integrity, and she understands the critical importance of effective and timely enforcement."

Marcus Peacock, EPA Deputy Administrator (08/2005 – 01/2009): "I have known Susan for over 20 years. I can think of no better person to lead the enforcement office at EPA. She understands the mission of the agency and the office and how important it is to protecting human health and the environment. A perfect pick."

Scott Fulton, President of The Environmental Law Institute and EPA General Counsel (08/2009-01/2013): "During the Obama Administration, when I served as EPA's General Counsel, Susan and I worked collaboratively on matters of shared concern to the Administration and the Congress. … Through these various intersections, I have found Susan to be fair minded, clear thinking, and strategic in her approach, as well as effective in her leadership. She has a deep understanding of EPA and the EPA-State relationship, which will equip her well to lead OECA."

Avi Garbow, EPA General Counsel (08/2013-01/2017) and Deputy General Counsel, EPA (09/2014-08/2013): "Based on my experience, Ms. Bodine possesses a strong intellect, a keen understanding of environmental law and policy, and is respectful and responsive. She is a seasoned environmental lawyer and a skilled advocate. It is also my view that Ms. Bodine's prior service at EPA is an important – though not indispensable – factor to be considered in her nomination. Her familiarity with the Agency and its talented staff would be of service to OECA and Administrator Pruitt, should she be confirmed."

Roger Martella, EPA General Counsel (08/2006-04/2008): "Susan epitomizes all the best character and traits we can ask of public servants: tireless and unflappable commitment to the mission of environmental protection and promoting human health, protective of transparency and process in her decision making, objective and apolitical approach to leadership, and empowerment of career decision makers in government."

Granta Nakayama, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (07/2005-01/2009): [Bodine is a] "fine environmental attorney" who "reads the statutes and parses the words and does the hard work. She's . . . rigorous in that sense." "[She is also] "an experienced hand in Washington and knows how to get things done. She is very practical and looks for solutions that are going to be workable for everybody."

Mathy Stanislaus, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management (06/2009-01/2017): "[Susan] understands both the internal side of the agency and the proper balance of enforcement."

Marianne Horinko, EPA Acting Administrator (07/2013-11/2013) and EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (10/2001-06/2004): "Susan Bodine is extremely qualified to run EPA's enforcement office. As a dedicated public servant with years of experience in environmental policy, she brings a vast understanding of both the agency and the community it regulates. Susan is well suited to carry out the mission of the Administration, and to protect clean air, land and water for the American people."

Elliot Laws, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (1993-1997): "While I don't envy her challenge, I think bringing Susan back to the agency is an excellent idea." "Having a familiar face back at EPA in a senior role is a plus for staff morale. Bringing in someone with her knowledge of the agency and the issues facing it can only be a positive."

Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (03/2016-present), EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Water (11/2004-01/2009): "She's tough and fair and committed to public service. [Bodine] embodies a compliance-first approach, but also will bring enforcement actions when needed."

G. Tracy Mehan, III, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Water (08/2001-12/2003) "Susan Bodine brings a commanding intellect and a vast reservoir of experience in environmental policy to the job of running EPA's enforcement office. The Agency and the American people will benefit tremendously from her legislative, executive and legal expertise across the spectrum of air, land and water. The Administration has made an outstanding selection."

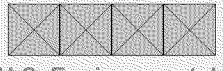
Cliff Rothenstein, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (04/1997-06/2000): "I have known Ms. Bodine for almost 20 years where she served as committee counsel to the House Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Environment and Public Works committees, and as Assistant administrator for the EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. She is a dedicated public servant and is well-qualified to lead EPA's office of

Enforcement and Compliance Assistance. Ms. Bodine has proved herself time and again to be fair, competent, professional and well respected by those who have had the pleasure to work with her. As an added benefit, Ms. Bodine knows EPA well and is known and respected by EPA employees."

Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director, U.S. Conference of Mayors" "Many Mayors, as well as my senior staff, have worked with Ms. Susan Bodine over the past 20 plus years. … Throughout these years, working with Ms. Bodine has been a real pleasure and she has been an asset in every job she has done. She is extremely thoughtful, knowledgeable and professional and has an understanding of the importance of protecting the environment and public health and to do so in an economically responsible way. Her common sense approach to environmental protection and infrastructure investment is widely respected among her peers and my Mayors. While we are sorry to lose her in her current role, she would be a welcome asset at the EPA."

Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation: "Susan Bodine's breadth and depth of experience in environmental protection make her an outstanding nominee to lead OECA. … In her decades of experience in private practice, for Congress and EPA, Susan Bodine has proven her leadership skills and her deep understanding of our nation's environmental laws and how they affect ordinary citizens and small businesses. She has shown leadership in working toward solutions with groups on all sides of the many controversies that entangle environmental protection. We believe she will strictly enforce our nation's environmental laws, using the hammer when necessary. We also believe she will bring back an effective yet underutilized tool in EPA's toolbox – compliance assistance. Farmers and ranchers across the nation look forward to a new era of firm, but fair enforcement."

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To: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: Lincoln Ferguson (EPA)
Sent: Mon 6/12/2017 1:38:33 PM
Subject: United States Resets Climate Change Discussion At G7

United States Resets Climate Change Discussion At G7

U.S. Formally Joins Communiqué, Reaching Consensus On Important Environmental Issues

June 12, 2017

Bologna, Italy – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that the United States stands firm on its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and has reset the conversation about climate change reflective of the new priorities of the Trump Administration and the expectations of the American people.

"Respective of the importance to engage with longstanding allies and key international partners, we approached the climate discussions head on from a position of strength and clarity. We are resetting the dialogue to say Paris is not the only way forward to making progress. Today's action of reaching consensus makes clear that the Paris Agreement is not the only mechanism by which environmental stewardship can be demonstrated. It also demonstrates our commitment to honest conversations, which are the cornerstone of constructive international dialogue, " said Administrator Scott Pruitt.

While a party to the communiqué, the United States did not join the climate change sections, explicitly stating:

We the United States of America continue to demonstrate through action, having reduced our CO2 footprint as demonstrated by achieving pre-1994 CO2 levels domestically. The United States will continue to engage with key international partners in a manner that is consistent with our domestic priorities, preserving both a strong economy and a healthy environment. Accordingly, we the United States do not join those sections of the communiqué on climate and MDBs, reflecting our recent announcement to withdraw and immediately cease implementation of the Paris Agreement and associated financial commitment.

The United States and its G7 counterparts found common ground engaging in robust and constructive dialogue regarding other, equally important environmental issues. The United States joined consensus throughout the communiqué including the sections discussing resource efficiency, marine litter, and environmental policies and jobs.

"The United States will continue to show leadership by offering action-oriented solutions to the world's environmental challenges. We have indicated a willingness to engage on an international stage that stands to greatly benefit from American ingenuity, innovation, and advanced technologies. We have already demonstrated significant progress towards mitigating environmental problems and we will continue to develop these for the benefit of all

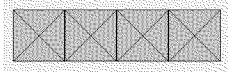
nations," Administrator Pruitt said.

BACKGROUND ...

G7 Bologna Environment Ministers' Meeting: Communiqué

"We, the G7 Environment Ministers and high representatives, and European Commissioners responsible for environment and climate, met in Bologna on 11-12 June 2017. We were joined by heads and senior officials of International Organizations and by representatives of universities and firms." (G7 Bologna Environment Ministers' Meeting, 06/12/17)

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To: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Fri 6/9/2017 7:41:13 PM
Subject: EPA's Weekly Round-Up For 06/09/17

EPA's Weekly Round-Up

From discussing how President Trump's decision to leave the Paris Accord puts America First, to announcing brownfield grants and clearing out the chemical backlog it's been a successful week at the EPA.

NATIONAL NEWS …

On ABC's This Week, Pruitt discussed how small businesses across the country are celebrating President Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris accord. "Well, when you look at, even The New York Times had an article, I think, within the last couple of days that talked about small business celebrating, euphoria with respect to the president's decision."

On Fox News Sunday, Pruitt explained how the U.S. is the energy technology leader of the world and that if China and India want to reduce their CO2 footprint, they should follow us. "If China and India want to reduce their CO2 footprint, they should learn from us," Pruitt told Fox News' Chris Wallace."

Administrator Scott Pruitt was on MSNBC's Morning Joe where he said the Paris Accord put our economy at a disadvantage. "When you look at what was agreed to in Paris, it put this country, our country at a disadvantage economically."

Breitbart reports that Pruitt was on SiriusXM radio where he said the Paris Accord would have driven more regulation through litigation. "Regulation through litigation, if you will, which, I think, is an abuse of executive authority, an abuse of the rulemaking process," Pruitt said."

The Huffington Post reports that President Trump's EPA is doing a good job at regulating new chemicals. "The Environmental Protection Agency plans by next month to clear its backlog of hundreds of new chemicals waiting to be deemed safe enough to sell to the public."

- **Additionally, Scientist Richard Denison penned an op-ed for the Environmental Defense Fund saying the EPA has made enormous progress regarding the chemical backlog.** "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday updated its website to provide a current snapshot of the status of new chemical reviews it has been conducting under last year's amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The statistics show that, despite being faced immediately with a substantial increase in responsibilities and workload as

a result of the major changes made to TSCA, EPA has made enormous progress in implementing the new requirements."

The Washington Free Beacon reports that the EPA is responding to inquiries from Senate EPW Committee in a timely manner. "The Environmental Protection Agency has responded to half of a Senate oversight committee's information requests, undermining a top Democrat's claim that he is blocking nominees because the agency has not answered his letters."

- **Additionally, the Washington Examiner reports the EPA has been incredibly responsive to inquires received for the Senate EPW Committee.** "Normally, that's a perfectly reasonable way for the Senate to exercise oversight of a stonewalling administrative agency. Except that's not happening. According to EPA records shared with the Washington Examiner, the agency has received 20 letters from Carper, responded to 10 already, and just mailed another Friday."

The Daily Caller reports that the Trump Administration delayed one of the most expensive EPA regulations ever. "The Trump administration announced Tuesday evening it would delay the implementation of a smog rule that's been called one of the costliest clean air regulations ever."

- **Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell applauded the EPA's move to delay this rule.** "I applaud Administrator Scott Pruitt for his decision to delay this Obama Administration issued regulation, which was finalized in October 2015."

- **Additionally, members of the House Western Caucus praised the EPA for their action.** "When pristine national parks like the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Rocky Mountain are in danger of being in nonattainment under the proposed Obama standard, there is a serious problem with the numbers," said Chairman Paul Gosar. "I am glad to see common sense finally prevail at the EPA with the announcement that the agency is postponing and reevaluating the job-killing Ozone Rule promulgated by President Obama."

TO THE STATES ...

In Georgia, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that the EPA awards Atlanta with $300,000 for the community-wide brownfield cleanup activity. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently selected the city of Atlanta to receive a brownfields revolving loan fund grant totaling $300,000. This is in addition to the more than $1.7 million in grant funding for community-wide brownfields assessment activities and cleanup planning that seven communities in Georgia were selected to receive on May 31."

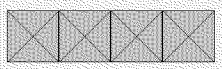
In Indiana, the Greensburg Daily News reports that the EPA has given $475,000 for potential brownfield assessments. "The Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (SIRPC) will receive a $475,000 grant to investigate environmental conditions at vacant and unused properties with redevelopment potential in the Greensburg industrial commercial district as well as other locations in the state, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials said."

In Texas, the Gilmer Mirror reports that students from Pearland received the President's Environmental Youth Award. *"Teenagers from Pearland, Katy and Houston, Texas, are*

among the national winners of the 2016 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality's President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA)."

In Utah, NPR Utah reports that Pruitt is giving flexibility to comply with this regulation from the Obama Administration. "Federal regulators are giving states like Utah another year to sort out their ozone-pollution solutions. The U-S Environmental Protection Agency is extending a deadline for states that are have been poised to write ozone cleanup plans. … EPA's Pruitt said he wants more "flexibility" for communities struggling with ozone, and he's creating a task force to review the ozone limits set during the Obama administration."

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From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Wed 6/7/2017 3:20:00 PM
Subject: WTAS: About The EPA'S Decision To Delay Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Standards

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ...

About The EPA'S Decision To Delay Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Standards

Leaders Across The Country ...

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell applauded Administrator Pruitt's decision, calling the standards an attack on middle-class families from the Obama Administration. "I applaud Administrator Scott Pruitt for his decision to delay this Obama Administration issued regulation, which was finalized in October 2015. This regulation was yet another attack on the Middle Class by the Obama Administration and was forced through despite significant concern from communities across the country. Today's postponement will give states and municipalities relief in the interim while EPA continues to review NAAQS levels." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

West Virginia Senator Shelley Moore Capito said state and local employers had insufficient time to comply with these standards. "State and local governments and employers across the country have had insufficient time to comply with the latest revisions to the ozone standards. I commend Administrator Pruitt and his staff at the EPA for acknowledging this reality and acting today to delay existing standards." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

Arizona Senator Jeff Flake said the EPA is working with Arizonans to protect the environment, instead of the previous administration's one-size-fits-all approach. "It's great to see the EPA working with Arizonans for a change. Nowhere are the flaws of previous administration's one-size-fits-all approach to regulating ozone more evident than in Arizona, a desert state where naturally-occurring ozone makes it impossible to meet the new federal mandate. While today's move buys Arizona much-needed time, I remain committed to advancing a solution that will provide permanent relief from this egregious and unworkable rule." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton praised Administrator Pruitt for pausing this costly and ineffective rule, which will help the economy in Texas. "I am grateful for the leadership of EPA Administrator Pruitt in courageously pausing the costly and ineffective Ozone Rule, and I'm hopeful that the one-year delay will provide time for the EPA to review the detrimental effects the Ozone Rule will have on the Texas economy." (Press Release, 06/06/17)

Recent News Coverage ...

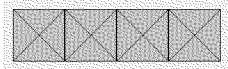
U.S. extends deadline for states to meet ozone pollution standard. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Tuesday it was extending the deadline by one year for states to declare which areas do not meet the federal standard for ground-level ozone, a pollutant linked to several

serious health conditions." (Reuters, 06/06/17)

EPA's Pruitt delays Obama-era smog rules for a year. "The Environmental Protection Agency announced Tuesday that it is giving states another year to meet strict rules for smog-forming ozone emissions set by the Obama administration, citing states' confusion over regulatory requirements and the need for the EPA to review the regulations. … Pruitt also announced that he is establishing the Ozone Cooperative Compliance Task Force to develop the "additional flexibilities for states to comply with the ozone standard," the agency said. Congress gave EPA the authority to create the task force under the recently passed fiscal 2017 spending bill." (The Washington Examiner, 06/06/17)

Trump Delays One Of The Most Expensive EPA Regulations Ever. "The Trump administration announced Tuesday evening it would delay the implementation of a smog rule that's been called one of the costliest clean air regulations ever." (The Daily Caller, 06/07/17)

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To: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: EPA Press Office
Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 5:05:00 PM
Subject: Pruitt: President Trump Is Focused On Growing Our Economy

Pruitt: President Trump Is Focused On Growing Our Economy

WASHINGTON – Earlier today, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt was on Fox Business where he discussed President Trump's decision to leave the Paris Accord and how the President is focused on growing our economy.

As Fox Business reports:

Click Here To Watch The Interview

BACKGROUND

Pruitt On The Paris Accord …

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "When the Paris Accord was cut, the head, father of climate science, James Hanson, former NASA scientist, called the Paris Accord a fake and a fraud. The Sierra Club's general counsel criticized the deal, because China and India didn't have to take any steps under the deal until 2030. India conditioned all of their activity on two and half trillion dollars in aid that would pass through the green climate fund. . . … This whole process in Paris was all about talk. The previous administration talked a good game, but they did very little. What the President is doing now is saying let's [get] focused on what we achieved as a [country,] export [that] to the rest of the world and engage in true discussions [on] how to reduce co2."

Pruitt On Trump's Vision To Grow Our Economy …

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: "Absolutely, we should be focused upon using the greatest innovative technology to keep emission levels low in all areas and also growing an economy."

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